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Human Rights Council
Thirty-eighth session
18 June-6 July 2018
Agenda item 4
Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Written statement* submitted by the African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[24 May 2018]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

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1809003

Please recycle

Human Rights Situation in Ouaddaï region of Eastern Chad*

Once again, we wish to draw the attention of the Human Rights Council to the deteriorating human rights situation in the Ouaddaï region in eastern Chad. Further to our written statement (A/HRC/34/NGO/59) 1 of 15 February 2017, addressed to the 34th regular session of the Human Rights Council, we are concerned that intercommunal violence and fighting that pits nomad camel herders and sedentary farmers is in steady increase in Ouaddaï region with devastating effects on human lives and livelihoods.

At the conclusion of the Sudanese-Chadian Border Security and Development Conference held at El-Geneina (Sudan) on 24 and 25 April 2018, the Presidents of Chad and Sudan underlined *"... the need to educate the local communities along the joint borderlines on the importance of collecting unlicensed firearms and its reflection on achieving peace and security"* and they further stressed that *"... it was imperative to put in place a joint mechanism that shall remedy any rising differences between nomads and farmers and the prerequisite of involving the native administration in the process."* The recognition of the growing crisis between nomads and farmers along the borders between Chad and Sudan from the highest authority in Chad is an encouraging signal that needs to be followed up by additional bold steps.

The ongoing intercommunal confrontations are reminiscent of the beginning of the armed conflict that destroyed the adjacent Darfur region of western Sudan. It appears that the movement of nomad camel herders from other parts of Chad into Ouaddai region in large numbers, in what seems to be an attempt to permanently settle in this ecologically rich region, is the main reason underneath the ongoing violence. The local farmers accuse the nomads of coordinating their activities with and receiving weapon and logistical support from the notorious *Janjaweed* militiamen who are active in Darfur. The local farmers also expressed fears that the real intention of the nomads is to forcibly appropriate land, pastureland and water sources traditionally used by the Ouaddaïen farmers.

The intercommunal conflicts and violence in the Ouaddaï region is driven by ecological factors mainly the decline of pastureland and water sources in areas traditionally inhabited by the nomads camel herders as a result of prolonged drought and desertification. These natural calamities are coupled with lack of sustainable development projects to mitigate the effects of drought and desertification on the nomads. The occasional interventions by the government of Chad to protect the civilian population and to address the situation through temporary solutions fell short of meeting the needs of growing human and animal populations. Consequently, the efforts and policy of Chad to address this crisis are ineffective and need to be reviewed consolidated. However, the organised nature of the attacks, their frequency and the ineffective responses of the local authorities must be subject of further scrutiny and evaluation from the government of Chad.

The qualification of the intercommunal violence and the nomads' attacks against the farmers in Ouaddaï region as usual confrontations in a tribal setup or their characterisation as isolated criminal activities, is over simplification of the actual situation. Underestimation of the scale and magnitude of the ongoing violence and attacks against unarmed Ouaddaïen farmers and the systematic destruction of their farms and habitats or denial of the gravity of these aggressions entail dangerous consequences. All indicators suggest that the ongoing low-scale intercommunal confrontations could develop into a full-blown armed conflict and ethnic cleansing. There are plausible fears of a substantial impact in case no concrete action is taken to nip the unfolding conflict in the bud.

Below is a non-exhaustive list of violent incidents involved the nomads and farmers in Ouaddaï region, which have been brought to our attention in the last few months:

1. Between 23 and 27 February 2018, violent intercommunal confrontations between sedentary African farmers and armed Arab herders resulted in the killing of at least 9 civilians and the injury of dozen others in Chigue locality in Ouaddaï region. The villagers who were attacked during these violent confrontations are from Tiré (Guéri District) and Kiégré and Terkémé (Bourtaye District) and the aggressors are from Oulad Malik Arab herders from Guéri and Bourtaye sub-districts. The victims that lost their lives during these confrontations are

1 https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G17/033/27/PDF/G1703327.pdf?OpenElement

Moukhtar Abderamane, Batoul Imeliss, Hassan Ibrahim, Abdallah Abbas, Mahamat Ali, Abdel Sadick Hassan, Ali Mahdi Alkhali et Taher Hassaballah Fidèle (reportedly disappeared person)

2. Between Thursday 30 November and Friday, 1 December 2017, at least 8 civilians, including 7 farmers and an assailant nomad herder, were killed during confrontations between Ouaddaïen farmers and armed nomads in Ab-Marga and Goundou villages in Chokoyen sub-district in Ouara area. The organized devastation of agricultural produce and harvest by the camel herders was the reason that provoked this violence.
3. On 8 May 2017, nomad camel herders attacked sedentary farmers who attempted to prevent them from destroying their farms in Tidjéri village at about 15 km to the South of Adré, capital of Assongha District in Ouaddaï region. At least five farmers, including women, were killed in this attack and several others were injured.
4. On 10 December 2016 armed camel herders destroyed farms owned by Ouaddaïen peasants and attacked the villagers in Tiré, Chikchika and Atilo localities near Abeche, capital of Ouaddaï region. Seven farmers were killed, and eighteen others were injured during this attack.

Conclusion and recommendations:

1. The human rights and humanitarian situation in eastern Chad, especially in the Ouaddaï region, is volatile and dangerous. It could escalate into a full-blown armed conflict between the pastoralists and farmers unless sustained efforts are made to address the root causes of intercommunal conflicts in this part of the country.
2. We encourage the government of Chad to redouble its efforts for the elaboration and enforcement of robust legal and administrative measures to deter criminal activities, including its policy to seize illegal four-wheel drive vehicles and roadsters motorcycles that are widely used for the commission of criminal activities and attacks against civilians in Ouaddaï region.
3. Violence and insecurity as well as the destruction of farms and appropriation of pastureland and water sources in the Ouaddaï region are fertile grounds for the infiltration of the *Janjaweed* elements from neighbouring Sudan in support of their Chadian kinsmen, which would eventually destabilize eastern Chad and the whole country.
4. Violence and the destruction of lives and livelihoods in Ouaddaï region could lead to the spread of hostile perceptions against the government of Chad among the local people, force the victims to look for other means to protect themselves and eventually instigate armed insurgency and encourage criminal groups like Boko Haram to get an entry point to radicalize youngsters in the region, which further threatens peace and stability in Chad and the entire sub-region.
5. There is no evidence indicating that the government of Chad supports the nomads or other militia groups in Ouaddaï region, however, its efforts to put a halt to the nomad attacks and criminal activities and interethnic fighting in Ouaddaï region are disproportionate with the gravity of the situation. Chad may not be able, with its own resources and capabilities, to protect the local population or to disarm the Chadian *Janjaweed* and nomad militia groups.
6. Chad is facing severe economic hardships and military challenges due to the presence of Boko Haram along its borders with Nigeria and Cameroon as well as the chaotic situation in Libya, which severely hindered trade with key regional and international markets. The decrease in crude oil price has particularly damaged Chad's economy, which became heavily dependent on oil revenue in recent years. Therefore, efforts of Chad to address the situation in Ouaddaï need to be internationally supported, both technically and financially.
7. To avoid a major human rights and humanitarian crisis in Ouaddaï region and Eastern Chad, the following measures merit keen attention of the government of Chad and need to be implemented as a priority:
    - 7.1. Effective control of the borders areas with Sudan and a policy to combat the proliferation of small-arms in Ouaddaï region and Eastern Chad;
    - 7.2. Introduce sustainable development projects to mitigate the negative effects of ecological degradation on the affected nomad communities;
    - 7.3. Restrict the movement of nomads and introduce measures to control cattle herds and their migration routes toward the Sudanic Savannah zones and wetlands southward, which are traditionally inhabited by farmers;
    - 7.4. Introduce effective measures to organize the expansion of mechanical farming and cultivated lands and their encroachment into traditional pastures; and
    - 7.5. Increase the number of the police force in the affected areas and arrest and prosecute all individuals accused of committing criminal acts or inciting intercommunal violence in Ouaddaï region.

*Euro-African Forum on Rights and Development and Omar Al-Mukhtar International Association, NGOs without consultative status, also share the views expressed in this statement.

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Human Rights Council
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Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

Written statement* submitted by the Khiam Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

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Please recycle

Urgent call to stop Brazil's supply of tear gas to Bahrain*

Introduction

Brazil has been one of the main suppliers of tear gas canisters to Bahrain since 2011, which have been used to repress peaceful protests in the country. The Brazilian company Condor Technologies based in Rio de Janeiro sold over two dozen non-lethal arms, including tear gas spray.1As a consequence of the misuse of tear gas by the Bahraini government, more than 40 people have died in the past 7 years.

Tear gas as fatal weapon

Tear gas can be a method of crowd control when it is used by security authorities only to an acceptable level. However, its excessive use occurs severe harms to civilians' health condition, by exposing their lungs, skins and eyes to toxic chemical agents. The frequent exposure to tear gas in enclosed areas, especially, can cause severe respiratory problems, and even death.2

Weapon sing tear gas in Bahrain

Only between 2011 and 2012, around 40 people died due to the exposure to tear gas.3 According to the Bahrain Centre for Human Rights, 31% of total number of death was caused by the extensive use of tear gas by the government in this period. According to Physicians for Human Rights, the amount of tear gas used against civilians during 18 months between 2011 and 2012 in Bahrain was unprecedented in the 100-year history of tear gas in the world.

In December 2012, 44-year-old Basel Mansoor Al-Qattan, who had suffered from cardiomyopathy and asthma, died after being exposed to tear gas around his house. Likewise, the constant exposure to massive amount of teargas caused 87-year-old Habeeb Ebrahim to faint for the first time in September 2012, and eventually to death in January 2013. In the same month, 8-year-old Qassim Habib from Karbabad lost his life, after the government's attacks on the village with an extensive use of teargas.4 Moreover, in February 2014, activist AbdulAziz al-Abbas was hit by a teargas canister in his face at a funeral procession, which eventually led to his death after two months.5 On 17 January 2015, Abdulaziz al-Saeed died at his home in Bilad al-Qadeem, due to massive tear gas inhalation.6

Tear gas "made in Brazil"

In December 2011, the Brazilian news magazine Época released a few photos of Brazilian tear gas canisters that were used in Bahrain. They apparently showed the logo of their manufacturer, Condor Non-Lethal Technologies, a company based in Rio de Janeiro. A video footage also confirmed that the models of tear gas canisters (GL-202 and GL-203/L), whose potential risk of misuse was clearly described by the company in its advertisement.7

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1 Gabriel Elizondo, 'Bahrain Hitting Close to Home in Brazil', Al-Jazeera, 18 December 2011, http://www.aljazeera.com/blogs/americas/2011/12/91811.html.

2 'Weaponising tear gas: Bahrain's unprecedented use of toxic chemical agents against civilians', Physicians for Human Rights, 2012.

3 'Bahrain Authorities 'Weaponising' Tear Gas', BBC News, 1 August 2012, http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-19078659.

4 'Bahrain: An 8 year-old-boy and 87 year-old-man; Two victims in one month of the tear gas collective punishment', Bahrain Centre for Human Rights, 28 January 2013, http://www.bahrainrights.org/en/node/5617.

5 'Bahraini man dies two months after being shot by police: family', Reuters, 18 April 2014, https://www.reuters.com/article/us-bahrain-violence-death/bahraini-man-dies-two-months-after-being-shot-by-police-family-idUSBREA3H0HC20140418.

6 Reda Al-Fardan, 'Brazilian tear gas linked to recent death of Abdulaziz al-Saeed', Bahrain Watch, 26 January 2015, https://bahrainwatch.org/blog/2015/01/26/brazilian-tear-gas-linked-to-the-recent-death-of-abdulaziz-al-saeed/.

7 Jose Antonio Lima and LiucaYonaha, 'Gáslacrimôgeneo "made in Brazil" é usadonarepressão no Bahrein, dizemativistas' Época, 16 December 2011, http://revistaepoca.globo.com/Mundo/noticia/2011/12/gas-lacrimogeneo-made-brazil-e-usado-na-repressao-no-bahrein-dizem-ativistas.html

The Brazilian government initially promised to conduct an investigation on Bahrain's misuse of tear gas manufactured in its country, but later in 2012 denied that Brazil had not exported tear gas to Bahrain. In 2015, however, the accusation reappeared as tear gas canisters manufactured by Condor were found in Bilad al-Qadeem. In late 2015, the Brazilian government rejected the request of a Bahraini human rights organisation to receive an independent investigation of the OECD on this matter.8

There have been constant attempts of Bahraini activists and the international community to stop supplies of tear gas to Bahrain, as it is used as a fatal weapon by the repressive government. Under the pressure of the civil society, in 2014, the South Korean government indefinitely suspended shipments of tear gas to Bahrain. In early 2015, the European Parliament also passed a resolution calling for an end to supply of EU-produced tear gas to Bahrain.9 In the meantime, the Brazilian tear gas canisters were increasingly found in Bahrain.10

Recommendations

To the government of Bahrain:

- Immediately halt all kinds of crackdown on protesters and civilians, including tear gas attacks on villages and homes.
- Investigate the harmful effects of tear gas misuse and suspend all use of tear gas with the purpose of political reprisal to activists and protesters.
- Disclose information about the varieties of toxic chemical agents used by the government.
- Allow scientists and health professionals to conduct critical research on the use and effects of tear gas in the country.

To the government of Brazil:

- Immediately stop the shipment of tear gas to Bahrain until the government of Bahrainadheres to the international standard regarding its use.
- Conduct a thorough investigation on the export record of Brazilian tear gas to Bahrain that are used against Bahraini civilians.

To the international community:

- Suspend exports of tear gas and relevant chemical agents to Bahrain until its government conducts an impartial investigation on its misuse of tear gas and stop violence against civilians.
- Support scientists and health professionals of Bahrain to conduct independent research on the proper use of all toxic chemical agents in the country.

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*Salam for democracy and Human Rights, NGO without consultative status, also shares the views expressed in this statement.

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8 'Brazilian government blocks Bahraini tear gas probe', Americans for Democracy & Human Rights in Bahrain, 17 December 2015, https://www.adhrb.org/2015/12/8017/.

9 'Ban tear gas to Bahrain and free Nabeel Rajab, says EU Parliament', Americans for Democracy & Human Rights in Bahrain, 10 July 2015, http://www.adhrb.org/2015/07/ban-tear-gas-to-bahrain-and-free-nabeel-rajab-says-eu-parliament/.

10 Reda Al-Fardan, 'Brazilian tear gas linked to recent death of Abdulaziz al-Saeed', Bahrain Watch, 26 January 2015, https://bahrainwatch.org/blog/2015/01/26/brazilian-tear-gas-linked-to-the-recent-death-of-abdulaziz-al-saeed/.

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Please recycle

The Silenced Voices of Labour Movement in Bahrain*

Introduction

In Bahrain, the formation of trade unions was legally allowed in the early 2000s, but the government has not accepted the repeated demands of trade unions to participate in the country's political, economic and social decision-making, which is essentially a fundamental right and an inherent democratic right. The authorities in Bahrain have continued to take the top-down decision-making approach and abuse this productive and labour sector.

The voices of labour movements are silenced

The Bahraini authorities have continued to neglect many of the demands of the unions and the International Confederation of Trade Unions (ICFTU) to stop the restrictions and its abuses against labour movements, and against workers and trade unions, which reached its peak since the beginning of the mass protests in 2011.

In 2011, the Bahraini authorities dismissed thousands of workers from both the public and private sectors as collective punishment for participating in labour strikes. Hundreds of members of trade union and thousands of workers were arrested. Criminal charges were brought against them either for participating in the strike or taking part in the movement took place in the country. Many of them lost their jobs and have been tortured by the authorities. An example is the case with the chairman of the teachers' association Mahdi Abu Deeb and his deputy Jalila Al Salman who were tortured during interrogations and imprisonment.

The Bahraini authorities have not only physically abused trade unionists butled a vicious media campaign, accusing them of treason that "defamed Bahrain." Trade unions have demanded that all those who have been dismissed be returned, however they were not placed back into their jobs or in best case were placed in lower-ranking positions with lower pay than their previous posts.

The unions also called for an end to the policy of sectarian discrimination in employment and the policy of dismissing employees because they belong to the Shiite community or for participating in anti-government protests. This is contrary to the International Convention adopted by the General Conference of the International Labour Organization on 25 June 1958 at its forty- Employment and Occupation Convention No. 111.

Undoing the articles of the Trade Unions Law

The Bahraini Trade Unions Act of 2002 came too late in comparison to the Labour Law of 1976. The current law lacks an explanatory memorandum and lacks provisions and articles that protect the rights of national workers. It contains restrictive articles for dialogue between trade unions and the authorities, and also prohibited workers of the public sector from forming unions defending their interests. Article 21 of the law also restricted the inherent right and effective means of defending the workers' rights, namely the right of strike, with restricting article that limits their ability to activate this right and carry out labour strikes.

In the authority's efforts to eliminate labour movements, the law was amended. The Minister of Labour was granted the right to choose the labour union which represents the workers of Bahrain in international forums and negotiations with the employers. The authorities also pushed towards controlling and dividing trade unions to ensure hegemony over workers' voices by pushing loyalists to break-in unions and the establishment of unions loyal to the Authority. That is to tighten the screws on the General Union of Bahrain Trade Unions, which the authority sees as opponent due to its support for popular demands in the transition to democracy in 2011.

Since October 2012, the Bahraini authorities have violated Article 21 of the Royal Decree of the Bahraini Trade Union Law of 2002, which stipulates that the strike is a legitimate mean of defending the economic and social interests of the labour. Where the Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa commented through the Bahrain News Agency and broadcasted by international news agencies such as Reuters, that: "marches and protest rallies will be treated as unlicensed and legal proceedings will be taken against those who call for or participants in them".

Even before October 2012, the security authorities in Bahrain used to face these protests with repression. There are usually clashes between a number of demonstrators and police. The demonstrations end with the arrest of citizens. In May 2013, during the suppression of labor marches, Photographer of the French news agency Mohamed Al Sheikh, The Associated Press photographer Hassan Jamali, Radio Monte Carlo correspondent Naziha Saeed were all arrested and released in later times. Authorities in Bahrain have not responded to human rights organizations' claims or the claims of the General Federation of Bahrain Trade Unions to abide by the constitution, which allows for protests and to comply

with the Bahraini Union Law. It is worth noting that at the first of May trade unions all over the world organize marches and protests calling for the improvement of wages and modify the conditions and also demands concerning legal amendments and other types of workers' claims.

Trafficking in poor migrant labour

Bahrain has tens of thousands of migrant workers living in extremely poor conditions with low wages and in uninhabitable housing. A few laws have been written, but remained unenforceable, thereby ineffective and failed to protect them. For instance, in 2007, the Bahraini authorities issued a law banning the work of construction workers or other workers under the sun at extremely high temperature between 11 am and 3 pm during the summer. However, the so-called "bulk labour" in Bahrain are still badly exploited. The manual labourers, such as workers at roads and construction, often face economic and livelihood problems with employers that reach the level of human trafficking. They are paid unreasonably low salaries, which makes them inevitably live in uninhabitable rooms, shared by a large number of other fellow foreign workers. Most of their accommodations are dilapidated where safety and protection requirements are not met.

Despite such obstacles, in most cases, the low-wage foreign workers can not resort to the complaint in the competent authorities because of the lengthy procedures in conflict resolution and long-term judiciary for final judgment. Since many of them cannot afford their life in Bahrain without being paid, migrant workers choose to accept an unfair settlement outside the judicial system or just return home, giving up the rest of the wages to be paid.

Modern enslavement: the enslavement of domestic workers

The Bahraini Labour Law of 2012 included articles regarding domestic servants. According to the law, domestic workers, who are usually female,are entitled to have 30 days annual leave, 2.5 days for each month, but in most cases the guarantors do not comply with this law. The law does not clearly regulate working hours of the day, overtime or weekend leave, as well as the payment methods of salary to ensure control in case maids claim not to receive their wages. In many cases, sponsors are prominent figures in the country and maids cannot file complaints against them. In many cases, non-Muslim female servant is obliged to wear the Islamic veil or impose a religion other than her own religion. In many cases they are subject to physical, psychological or sexual abuse, and treated as de facto slaves.

Recommendations

Salam for Democracy and Human Rights urges the authorities in Bahrain to:

1. Ensure that workers and trade unions in Bahrain do not face any kind of harassment or abuse because of their movements to prolong their legitimate rights.
2. Stop the dismissal of activists in the General Federation of Trade Unions in Bahrain or the use of any arbitrary measures against them.
3. Return all workers who have been dismissed due to their political positions or sectarian affiliation to their work or agree with them to pay compensation, especially those dismissed from work due to the popular movement in February 2011.
4. Ensure that no form of punitive measures is used against workers to participate in any protest.
5. Amend the articles of the Trade Union Law and listen to the demands of the General Federation of Bahrain Trade Unions.
6. Stop suppressing rallies and marches or preventing them from going out, including protests by trade unions on May 1 of each year.

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*Salam for Democracy and Human Rights, NGO without consultative status, also shares the views expressed in this statement.

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Please recycle

Systematic Torture and Medical Negligence of Detainees in Bahrain*

Introduction

In Bahrain, there have been continuous testimonies of detainees about physical, psychological abuse and torture, as well as the authorities' prohibition of victims from appropriate medical treatmentand rehabilitation.

SALAM for Democracy and Human Rights monitored more than 50 cases of abuse against a number of political detainees and human rights activists,committed by security authorities in Bahrainduring April 2018. Four detainees were subjected to various forms of torture, and 32 detainees were reportedly ill-treated, ranging from being depriving from attending funerals of their relatives, denial of visits, solitary confinement, denial of calls, and sport exercises, exit to the yard, and a ban on drinking water.

Continuous Torture and Mistreatment of Detainees

A detainee called Ahmed Ali Rahdi from the village of Nuwaidrat was harshly tortured, which resulted in the injury with fractures and bruises in different parts of his body. The detainee Mohammed Ahmed Ali from the village of Abu Saiba and the detainee QasimBuhumaid from Al-Malikiya were subjected to solitary confinement while the detainee Qais Abbas from Ali village was confined for 5 hours under the hot sun after he asked the prison administration to allow him to go to the open area for exposure to the sun. Jaafar Al-Madani was denied access to call his family. In addition to these cases, prominent human rights activist and detainee in the prisons of Bahrain, Nabeel Rajab was even prevented from drinking water.

The ongoing monitoring of abuses indicates that brutal acts against political detainees and human rights activists in Bahrain are systematic, and officials of the Ministry of the Interior are aware of if not even directed by them. The detainees, even children and those with serious illnesses such as cancer, epilepsy, sclerosis, have been victims of the government's brutality. It has been also monitored that families of three of the detainees were also mistreated by security forces during raids on their homes.

Negligence of Medical Treatment

Not only were the security authorities and the prison administration committing serious violations. There have been continuous reports that detainees have been prevented from treatment for many periods that caused health complications. The authorities continue to delay treatment of detainees, ignoring the fact that the proper medical treatment is guaranteed by both local and international laws, as it is stipulated in the Constitution of Bahrain. In some cases, deteriorating psychological condition that resulted from torture caused several attempts of detainees to commit suicide.

During April 2018, more than 15 detainees were denied access to treatment and health care, and the authorities deliberately subjected a number of detainees to medical negligence, such as the case of detainee Yousef Mohammed Fathi from Muharraq, who was not treated and was deliberate neglected after having had a head tumor removed.

The list of prisoners who are banned from treatment and health care includes Ammar Sahwan, who is suffering from injuries caused by shotguns. Detainee Elias Al Mulla, who is suffering from cancer, and the detainee Mohamed Ahmed Ali, and Ahmed Al Qubaiti, who are wounded by shotgun fissions whom the authorities completely refuse to treat. The prominent human rights defender Nabeel Rajab was also prevented from undergoing surgery.

A number of detainees suffering from sclerosis, epilepsy and severe pain in various areas of the body such as the eye, head and teeth are subject to medical negligence and lack of health care.

Below are names of detainees subject to ill-treatment, torture and denial of treatment during April:

Torture:

1. Aqeel Hassan Jassem – from Al Aker village.
2. Ahmed Ali Radhi – from Nuwaidrat (he spent three months spent in the hospital of the Ministry of Interior known by Al Qaalaa since his arrest after being subjected to brutal assault caused his back injury and fractures and bruises in various body parts).

3. Hussain Ali Al-Sahlawi – from Karzakan.
4. Hussain Ali Saleh – from Abu saiba.

Maltreatment:

1. Hussain Juma – from Bilad Al Qadeem (deprived of attending his grandmother's funeral).
2. Sheikh Issa Al-Qafas- from Sanabis (deprived of calls for celebrating an Islamic occasion).
3. The sentenced to death Muhammad Al Mutghawi – from Al-Duraz (deprived of visits).
4. The sentenced to death Sayed Alawi Hussain Al Musawi – from Al-Duraz (deprived of visits).
5. Ahmed AbdulRasool – from Bilad Al Qadeem (deprived of calls).
6. Muhammad Ahmad Ali – from Abu saiba (solitary confinement).
7. QassemBuhameed – from Al-Malkiya (solitary confinement).
8. Brothers Hassan and Ali Abed Imam – from Abu saiba (denial of calls).
9. Ali Abdul-Zahra Salman Al-Qafas – from Al-Nuaim (deprived of attending his uncle's funeral).
10. Ali Ahmed Habib Ashoor – from Karzakan (deprived of calls).
11. Ali Hussain Al-Shaikh – from Al Daih (solitary confinement and denial of calls).
12. Sayed Mohamed Taleb – from Al Qurayya (deprived of calls and going out at the yard for for exercise).
13. The child Haidar Ibrahim Al Mulla – from Sanabis (deprived of visits).
14. Sadiq al-Banna – from Jidhafs (denied calls).
15. Qais Abbas – from A'ali (chained for 5 hours under the sun because he asked to go out in the fenced yard).
16. Rights activist Nabeel Rajab – from Bani Jamra (prevented from drinking water).
17. Mohammed Jawad Yaqoob – from Sanabis (deprived of calls).
18. Sayed Hussain Amin- from Tubli (deprived of attending his grandmother's funeral).
19. Sayed Muntadher Amin- from Tubli (deprived of attending his grandmother's funeral).
20. Ali Hussain AlShaikh – from Al Daih (solitery confienement).
21. – Sayed Redha Ali – from Abu Saiba (deprived of calls for celebrating a religious occasion).
22. Jassim Mohammed Abdullah – from Salmabad (deprived of calls for celebrating a religious occasion).
23. Emad Al-Oraibi – from Musalla (denial of calls).
24. Abbas Sawar – from Musalla (denial of calls)
25. Ali Al Sakran – from Musalla (denial of calls).
26. Sayed Kadhem Al-Musawi – from Musalla (denial of calls).
27. Sami Al Otaish- from Musalla (denial of calls).
28. Muhammad Jawad – from Musalla (denial of calls).
29. Qassim Al-Mansi – from Al-Bilad Al-Qadim (denial of calls).
30. Jawad Kadhme – from A'ali (deprived of attending his grandmother's funeral).
31. Jassem Mohammed Rashed Al-Rashed – from Demestan (deprived from attending his grandmother's funeral).
32. The Child Jaafar Al-Madani -from Al Duraz (denial of calls).

Denial of treatment:

1. Ammar Sahwan – from Muqaba (injured by shotguns).
2. Yousef Mohammed Fathi – from al-Muharraq (who underwent an operation to remove a tumor in the head and was not treated and was neglected).
3. Elias Al Mulla – from Sitra (cancer).
4. Human rights defender Nabeel Rajab – from Bani Jamra (deprived from a surgery).
5. Mohammed Ahmed Ali – from Abu Saiba (wounded by a shotgun and the authorities refuse to treat him).
6. Mohammed Al-Aamer – from A'ali (has skin condition and does not receive his medicines).
7. Mohammed Hamid al-Daqqaq – from Karbabad (suffering from sclerosis and the prison administration ignore to transfer him to see the doctor).
8. Hussain Ali Mohammed – from Karzakan (suffering from severe pain in his teeth).
9. YunusHadher – from Al Duraz (subjected to epileptic seizures and prison administration ignore his conditions).
10. Ahmad al-Qubaiti – Abu Saiba (injured by a shotgun).
11. Ayoob Adel – from Muharraq (wounded with a broken leg with metal installations).
12. Mohammed Hamid Al-Daqqaq – from Karababad (infected with severe sclerosis).

13. Haider Mulla – from Al Duraz (has a broken nose and hearing impairment).
14. Jaafar Aqil Al Madani – from Al Duraz (infected with scabies).
15. Hussain al-Marri – from Bori (suffering from severe pain in his eyes).
16. Osama al-Saghir – from Abu Saiba (suffering severe pain in the head and hand as a result of a shotgun injury on the day of the crackdown in front of the house of Sheikh Issa Qasim in Duraz, from a distance of about a meter).
17. Sayed Hashim Alabbar – from Manama (suffering from Severe Acute Sclerosis and needs special care).

Recommendations

To the government of Bahrain:

- Immediately stop the use of torture as a policy to extract confessions and to spread fear and intimidation among people;
- Immediately, impartially and transparently investigate the allegations of torture against dozens of officers in the National Security Agency NSA who are involved in torture and other human rights violations;
- Hold accountable any person found guilty of committing, or supervising the crimes of torture in a fair trial in accordance with international standards;
- Compensation and reparation for victims of torture and the establishment of a rehabilitation center for victims of torture;
- End the culture of impunity governing the police forces and carry out comprehensive reforms to ensure transparency and legal accountability;
- Signing and ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture in order to enhance the legal accountability of perpetrators of torture offenses;
- Respect for article 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and article 7 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which stipulate that no one shall be subjected to torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;
- End the practice of enforced disappearance, incommunicado detention and arbitrary detention;
- Allow the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture to visit Bahrain urgently and allow him to work freely and meet the victims unconditionally.

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*Salam For Democracy and Human Rights, NGO without consultative status, also shares the views expressed in this statement.

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Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

Written statement* submitted by the Khiam Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[24 May 2018]

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1809006

Please recycle

Bahraini government's sabotage against fair trial*

Background

On 1 May 2017, the representatives of 82 countries brought forth recommendations to the Kingdom of Bahrain in the Third Cycle of the Universal Periodic Review at the UN Human Rights Council. Many of the recommendations revolved around the balance and impartiality of the judiciary, and this came on the back of many harsh and improper sentences against human rights defenders and political activists. Many complained of torture and inhuman treatment of detainees, whereas nothing was done by the judicial authority to deal with this.

Right to a Fair Trial

The Bahrain Constitution provides provisions to control and organise the judiciary, with the first coming in Article 20 ("Criminal Trials"), which states, "[t]here shall be no crime and no punishment except under a law", with Article 4 affirming, "[j]ustice is the basis of government". These provisions create a requirement on the country to incorporate these principles in the governing system and should all be guaranteed under the judiciary and trials. Further, the country should attempt to warrant that international agreements are reflected.

However, in practice, the government of Bahrain has punished its citizens, arbitrarily interpret several articles and provisions as well as the criminal laws. For instance, Article 122 in the Criminal Code states: "He will be punished by death he who commits to antagonizing work with a foreign state against the state of Bahrain." The use of this article has resulted in the sentencing of three Bahraini citizens from the Wefaq National Islamic Society, the Secretary-General, Sheikh Ali Salman, and two other members, after expressing peaceful political views regarding the Government of Bahrain. The Article itself is particularly vague in describing the parameters of the rule, endangering any active human rights defender or political dissident that airs his/her views.

Judiciary's Independence to Ensure Justice

The judiciary in Bahrain suffers from the loss of the most important elements of the standards of independent judiciary. The Supreme Judicial Council is directly appointed by the King and he seats himself head of the judiciary. There are also no clear criteria for the process of appointment, with judges not being subject to any examination. In addition, the judges are mainly members of the ruling family themselves.

The absence of transparency in appointment to the judiciary and the lack of a mechanism to carry out checks and balance, has allowed the King to appoint judges from the ruling family and the families close to him. With members from the Sunni community having first dibs, as well as foreign Arabs (such as Egyptians) having the chance to be appointed in to the judiciary,with Shia Bahrainis facing slim chances of being appointed. The Public Prosecution mirrors this policy, where its members are appointed in identical fashion as that of the judiciary, and the considerations are the same (ruling family first, Sunni community members second, foreign Arabs third, and Shia Bahrainis last).

Furthermore, the military judiciary, after the amendment to Article 105 of the Constitution, has allowed the prosecution of civilians by military courts. The Military Justice Act has also given the authority for judges in such courts to be appointed by order of the King, after the nomination of the candidates. This judiciary is therefore no different from the civil judiciary in that it lacks any independence.

The right to contact a lawyer

In Bahrain, the majority of defendants in human rights and political cases are deprived of from contacting lawyers, both in police stations and at the public prosecution. Lawyers regularly apply to the security authorities and the public prosecution with official requests to see their clients but are usually always denied. It always becomes apparent after a case is prepared by the Public Prosecution against the defendants that a lawyer was required to attend with the client. This demonstrates the illegality of such a policy which has occurred time and again in numerous cases.

The Code of Criminal Procedure gave absolute power to the police and the Public Prosecution to allow lawyers to enter the interrogation chambers and to monitor the safety of the investigation proceedings against the accused. However, in contravention of the Constitution, we have observed that numerous defendants in criminal cases were not legally represented or were not allowed to have their lawyer present. We have observed cases where lawyers have been barred from being with their clients while they are being questioned at police stations, as well as defendants being interrogated at the Public Prosecution Office.

Confessions under duress

There are dozens of detainees who report to the prosecution during their interrogation that their confessions in the Department of Criminal Investigation and Evidence were committed by coercion, torture, threats or inducement. In the event of their confession, they will be released, but the Public Prosecutor's Office does not show any seriousness in the investigation of these allegations, and is often the basis for their conviction at court.

The prosecutors who investigate these cases often report that they sometimes refer the defendants' allegations of torture to the Special Investigation Unit investigating allegations of torture and ill-treatment. This has rarely resulted in any convictions against any officers and has remained without tangible results. The majority of victims end up losing hope and confidence in these mechanisms and organisations.

Judiciary and Trials

Many cases of violations to defendants' rights in the courts, which include denying them legal access to counsel at the preliminary stages of their criminal cases, as well as instances of denying them opportunities to discuss the substantive evidence before the court. The Public Prosecution has continuously relied on secret witnesses in criminal cases who do not attend trial sessions. This challenges the fairness of the criminal courts and defendants' counsels cannot cross-examine or challenge these secret witnesses.

Furthermore, expeditiousness in dealing with cases in the criminal courts is not a principle that is upheld, with severe delays in the processing of criminal cases forcing many defendants to remain in custody for long periods of time. A recent example of this is the case of Sheikh Mohammed Saleh al-Qashmi, who was kept in detention for 12 months and then found innocent by the court.

Legal modification of criminal cases

The legal adjustment or modification of the criminal cases are a particular issue. Bahrain's security authorities commence an investigation, and usually alter a case to reflect the political interests of the authorities. We have found that most criminal cases that concern a political interest are expeditiously investigated by the Public Prosecution Department and an adverse judgment against the defendant is reached at the Court of Cassation.

In Bahrain's criminal law, legal modification/adaptation remains a jurisdiction of the criminal judge. However, we have consistently observed that criminal judges surrender any counter arguments and always choose to adopt the opinion of the security authorities. This has been illustrated with the case concerning "communications with Qatar". The Secretary General of the Wefaq Party found himself in a position where his case's accusations were repeatedly modified to correspond to social media materials to reach a position where a defamation charge can be sought despite the fact that all the materials and evidence based existed before the alleged communications took place.

Right of the defendant to a defense

The defense is an inherent right of every defendant. This right is provided for in the Constitution and the law. The judge, the prosecutor or any person who initiates the criminal case must allow the defendant an opportunity to defend himself or with the assistance of a lawyer.

We have found that in most criminal cases of a political or juridical nature, the court rejects the request to discuss secret witnesses. Many of the defendants have provided conclusive evidence of their innocence and have not been accepted by the court. Defendants often file a complaint with the criminal judge about the torture that accompanies the investigation, however, they are never properly followed up.

Recommendations

- Amend the mechanisms for the appointment of the Supreme Council of the Judiciary so as to allow the public to exercise its authority in the control of the judiciary.
- Establish a clear and transparent mechanism to ensure that all sectors of society who meet the objective conditions of judicial practice and engage in judicial work are allowed to participate.
- Abolish the constitutional and legal amendment allowing civilians to be tried by military courts.
- Amend the Code of Criminal Procedure to ensure that defendants can communicate with their lawyers in all cases, and limit the authority of the judicial officers and prosecutors to prevent lawyers from entering interrogation rooms.
- Ensure mechanisms of supervision of the work of the Public Prosecutor's Office and its investigating agents ensure that defendants are not subjected to any pressure or coercion while making their statements.

• To train judges to the necessary level to operate in a way that can achieve justice and preserve the constitutional and human rights of defendants.

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*Salam For democracy and Human Rights, NGO without consultative status, also shares the views expressed in this statement.

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Please recycle

Observation of hate speech in Bahrain in 2017 (Former MP Mohammed Khalid as an example)*

Introduction

Former MP Mohammad Khalid is engaged in publishing media materials that incite hatred, violence and contempt for the beliefs of the Shiite community on the social networking site, Twitter. Despite criticism of human rights reports of hate speech, Bahraini officials continue to welcome him, which explains the prevalence of impunity enjoyed by those involved in inciting hatred in Bahrain. This is also the case for Head of Public Security, Tariq Al-Hassan, who is also involved in publishing hate speech. On the other hand, some citizens face prosecution for exercising freedom of expression on social networking sites, as happened to journalist Faisal Hiatt.

In 2017, 453 media materials and messages that incite or help to incite sectarian and political hatred and violence by former MP Mohammed Khalid were observed, culminating in 110 hate materials in January and 98 hate materials in May.

It is noted that in the materials he publishes, Khalid uses degrading expressions and gives the political dissidents the names and acts of animals. Moreover, he intends to publish insulting posts about the High Commissioner for Human Rights because of his comment on human rights issues in Bahrain. He also calls human rights activists traitors, spies and those who bray.

In addition, he publishes materials that insult the beliefs of Shiite Muslims, such as calling for trampling their beliefs, publishing words that insult the symbols of the Shiites, calling them worshipers of the idols, disbelievers and "*rafidah*" (rejecters), and insulting one of the senior Shiite religious references, SayedAli Al-Sistani.

It is noteworthy that Khalid called fornicating violence, including his call for chopping the bodies of the accused and feeding them to the dogs. Furthermore, he published a picture of three citizens who were executed after an unfair trial, which relied on confessions extracted under torture, and wrote on it, "I see the empty heads of the Magi has ripened and it is time to harvest them."

Insulting the High Commissioner

On 3/12/2017, former MP Muhammad Khalid tweeted, "I do not know why Bahrain over thinks the statements of the High Commissioner, who has proved since 2011 that he is a tool in the hands of the enemies… Let him bark and do not respond to his fables."On 12/12/2017 at 10:54 pm, he tweeted, "This so-called High Commissioner, who accuses Bahrain (falsely) that its human rights situation is deteriorating! - It seems that he failed in geography since he knows only Bahrain."On 3/19/2017,he tweeted, "In case the so-called "High Commissioner" arrived in#Bahrain I hope that he is given a lesson in Taqiya."On 3/16/2017, he tweeted, "Who thinks that the entry of the so-called High Commissioner to #Bahrain will make human rights shops and foreign countries pleased with us, is mistaken. And never will the Jews or the Christians approve of you."On 16/3/2017, he tweeted, "Will the role of the High Commissioner who will visit #Bahrain (who is not welcomed) be a duplicate copy of Bassiouni who gave the mercenaries of Iran more "media flashiness"?

Undermining Human Rights Community

On 5/2/2017, Khalid tweeted photos of the Bahraini human rights activists participating in the Universal Periodic Review of the Bahrain Human Rights File and wrote, "The faces of betrayal and collusion that bray against #Bahrain in Geneva."On 8/24/2017,he tweeted, "Those who lie and promote the death chambers in the prisons of Bahrain know that they are 7-stars prisons, but lying and the blind loyalty to Iran and the Party of Satan are in their blood."

Trampling Shia'sBeliefs

On 4/24/2017,Khalid published a tweet bearing a hash tag that says, 'Sons of hatred created by the culture of Hussainiya," in addition, he re-tweeted a tweet by @tahadulaimi, which says, "The problem is withShiism, not with the Shiites. This is the umbilical cord, which makes the disengagement between the Arab and the Persian impossible, except by resorting to the mechanism of trampling." On 7/7/2017, Khalid tweeted, "Do not be surprised that #Bahrain someday becomes the third country in the world after Iran and Iraq in shrines and blessing of tombs… therefore we say wake up."

He also re-tweeteda tweet by @omar_madaniah, which says, "A senior Jewish Rabbi admits that the Jews were the ones who planted the Iranian #Sistani as a reference for the pagans and it is admitted by al-Haidari who wears a turban."Note that this tweet is meant for one of the senior religious references of Shiites, and he was called a reference for the "pagans"!

On 2/8/2017, he posted a tweet with an attached photo, saying, "Sheikh of Islam IbnTaymiyyahsaid,"The rafidahare the origin of all strife and misfortune, and many of the swords that were against Muslims were from their part. Ibn Saba was the one who invented the religion of the rafidah, and he was an infidel, atheist and an enemy of Islam and its people."

Assaulting execution victims and inciting violence

On 14/1/2017, commenting on the death sentences, Khalid tweeted, "Saudi Arabia carried out the punishment against the head of terrorism #Nimr_alNimrand did not pay attention to those who croak and bray, well done #Bahrain for punishing the followers and leaving the heads for the finale On 1/14/2017, he posted a tweet, which included photos of the victims of execution and extrajudicial killings, saying, "I see the empty heads of the Magi has ripened and it is time to harvest them." On 1/1/2017, he tweeted, "I hope to hear tonight about shooting the dogs of Iran with live bullets and leaving them like carcasses on the streets. This is the least they deserve after killing them."

On 2/26/2017, he tweeted,"If the security men of #Bahrain arrested the terrorists at the scene, they should shoot bullets in their heads instead of sending them to7-stars prisons."

On 11/11/2017, he tweeted,"We hope that the fate of the terrorists who blew up the oil pipelines after their arrest will not be 7-stars prisons. The least they deserve is the "piracy punishment" by chopping them into pieces, then executing them and throwing them as food for the dogs…The land of Bahrain is too pure to be contaminated by their stinking rotten bodies."

Recommendations

1. The Bahraini authorities should take immediate measures to end the hate speech made by state political figures and writers of press for their role in discrimination against Shiites.
2. Bahraini authorities must take measures to counter hate speech made by political figures and government journalists in the media and on social media.
3. Member States of the Human Rights Council should press the Bahraini authorities to harmonize domestic legislation with the 2008 Camden Principles and the 2012 Rabat Plan of Action, which call for prohibiting advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred.
4. Amend article 172 of the Penal Code promulgated by Decree Law No. 15 of 1976, to include the following: Punish anyone enjoying legal or illegal authority that practiced discrimination or apartheid in violation of the principle of equality and equal opportunities among citizens because of origin, colour, religion, sect, doctrine or political opinion; discrimination and apartheid in the article shall have the meanings set forth in the 1965 International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the 1973 Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid; if the perpetrator is a public employee or assigned for a public service, this shall be regarded as an aggravating circumstance; and the discrimination and apartheid shall be deemed to have occurred if an individual or a group of citizens is deprived of benefits, burdened by obligations, or labelled with labels that have non-specific criteria applicable to all citizens.

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*Bahrain Forum for Human Rights (BFHR), NGO without consultative status, also shares the views expressed in this statement.

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Please recycle

Human rights situation in Bahrain in the first quarter of 2018*

The human rights situation in Bahrain continued to deteriorate in April 2018. 1977 serious human rights violations were observed between the 1st and 30thof April2018, including arbitrary arrests, house raids, unfair trials, crackdown on peaceful protests, restrictions on freedom of movement, prohibition of Friday prayers, media materials that incite hate speech, enforced disappearance, torture, ill-treatment, injuries, destruction or confiscation of property and violation of freedom of religion and belief.

While the number of violations in April exceeded those of March and February, the total violations were distributed as follows: 58 cases of arbitrary arrests, including 9 children;42 cases of forced disappearances; sentences amounting to 847 years and 9 months in prison, BD 18,200 equivalent to approximately US $48,404 of total fines and bails; 56 cases of torture and ill-treatment, including 17 cases of deprivation of treatment;589 media materials that incite hate speech; 80 unlawful raids on houses and residential facilities;72crackdowns on peaceful gatherings and protests;878individuals who were arrested or accused were referred to court because of trials that violate freedom of expression and peaceful assembly; violation of freedom of movement by the continuation of the siege on Duraz area for 678 days and the imposition of house arrest on the highest religious authority for the Shiite Muslims in Bahrain, Ayatollah Sheikh Isa Qassim, for 341 days without a judicial order or administrative decision; violation of freedom of religion and belief by prohibiting Friday prayer in Duraz4 times in April bringing the number of prohibitions to94times since 2016;2case of unlawful confiscation of property; and 3 cases of destruction of property.

In April, Bahrain witnessed 262 protests, while since the beginning of the year the number of protests has reached 1440even though there has been a complete banon peaceful assembly for1307 days. The number of arbitrary arrests since the beginning of the year has reached 376, including 55 children. Since 2012,the nationalities of 606 citizens have been revoked for political reasons. Moreover, since the beginning of the year, there have been 438illegal raids on homes and residential facilities; 445 Bahraini citizens, including 5 women and 5 children, have been arbitrarily convicted; total sentences amounting to 2888 years and 11 months in prison, in addition to a suspended 3-year jail term; total fines imposed on the arbitrarily convicted amounting to US$ 1,019,276; 135 sentences of revocation of nationalities at several levels of litigation; 10 sentences of arbitrary deportation; and 14 death sentences. The total number of human rights violations that occurred in January, February, March and April are 5516.

Hate speech: 589 media materials

589 media materials and messages that incite or help to incite hatred against human rights defenders, political activists and Bahraini citizens were observed in April. Those materials were distributed among152 media articles published in the official press and 437materials published on social media. The journalists, Faisal al-Sheikh, Farid Hassan, Mona Mutawa, Saeedal-Hamad, Sawsan al-Shaer, Fawzia al-Rasheed and Othman al-Majed continued to publish hate materials.

The hate-inciting media materials published in official press are as follows: 30 articles in the Bahraini al-Ayam newspaper, 49articles in the Bahraini Akhbaral-Khaleej newspaper, 16 articles in the Bahraini al-Bilad newspaper, and 57 articles in the Bahraini al-Watan newspaper.

In addition, 115 media materials that incite hatred against 4 prominent Shiite clerics in Bahrain, including senior scholar Sayed Abdullah al-Ghuraifi, were monitored. 34 of them were published in the four official newspapers, and 81 materials were published on social media sites. It was noted that the published materials amounted to 105 hate materials after the release of the statement of Undersecretary of Islamic Affairs at the Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowment, Fareed al-Moftah1, against the four senior clerics.

1http://www.bna.bh/portal/news/838470

Unfair trials

The trial hearings, which violate the freedom of political action of Bahraini opposition leader Sheikh Ali Salman, as well as two former MPs of the Al-Wefaq parliamentary bloc, Sheikh Hassan Sultan and Ali Mahdi Al-Aswad, continued. The tenth hearing was held on April24,2018, and a decision was issued to reserve the case for judgment on May 21, 2018.

The defence's argument lasted for an hour and a half, during which the moral element of the crime was denied, and the investigation officer's evidence was challenged. The wiretapping occurred outside the period of validity of the prosecution's authorization; however, the prosecution tried to refute the evidence of innocence and convert it into incriminating evidence, as the judiciary's attitude continues to breach the presumption of innocence. The Secretary-General of al-Wefaq, Sheikh Ali Salman, refused to speak before the court during this hearing.

On April 25, 2018, the Military Court of Cassation upheld the death sentence against four Bahraini citizens, who were convicted of attempted attack on the Commander-in-Chief of Bahrain Defence Force, Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa. On the next day, April 26, 2018, the King of Bahrain, Hamad bin Isa, approved the commutation of the death sentences, which were upheld by the military judiciary, to life sentences.

The death sentences were issued on the basis of confessions extracted under torture, after a trial, in which the principles of fair trials were violated.

Mubarak Adel Mubarak Mohanna, FadhelSayed Abbas Hassan Radhi, Sayed Alawi Hussein Alawi Hussein, Mohamed Abdul-Hassan Ahmed al-Motaghawi, Mohammed Abdul-Hussein Saleh al-Shihabi, Mohammed Abdul-Wahed Mohammed al-Najjar and Hussein Mohammed Ahmed Shehab had appealed their verdicts in the case that was marred by many mistakes and was criticized by international human rights groups.

On February 21, 2018, the Military Court of Appeal upheld the verdicts of the first degree Military Court, which, on December 25, 2017, sentenced the victims to death and to 15 years in prison as well as revoking their citizenships.

In this trial, the victims were subjected to 11 violations, including torture with electric shock, solitary confinement and enforced disappearance. Communications engineer Sayed Alawi Hussein, who is the personal escort of Ayatollah Sheikh Isa Qassim, and SayedFadhel Abbas were forcibly disappeared for nearly a year, while Mohammed al-Shihabi and human rights activist Mohammed al-Motaghawi were forcibly disappeared for months. Some of the lawyers and the families of the defendants were threatened to be subjected to degrading treatment if they revealed the violations to the media or international human rights organizations. The military judiciary hid the report of the forensic doctor which proves that Sayed Alawi Hussein Alawi was tortured.

Human rights activist and head of Liberties and Human Rights Department at al-Wefaq National Islamic Society, Mohammed al-Motaghawi, was arrested on May 23, 2017 when excessive force was used to break up the peaceful gathering in Duraz. He was tortured while he was arbitrarily detained for hours in front of the house of Ayatollah Sheikh Isa Qassim, the highest religious authority for Shiites in Bahrain. One of the defendants told his family that he had no choice other than confessing because he would face death due to torture with electric shocks if he had not confessed.

The plaintiff in this case, the Commander-in-Chief of the Bahrain Defence Force, oversees the appointment of military judges and the distribution of positions. Therefore, the lawyers demanded that the case be transferred to the civil judiciary because such case is not in the jurisdiction of the military judiciary, but the judge refused. The report of the Independent Commission of Inquiry condemned the sentences handed down in 2011 to civilians by the military judiciary. In fact, some of the defendants were tortured before a judge in the court in 2011 and no legal liability was inflicted upon the perpetrators.

At the second hearing, on October 30, 2017, the defendants were surprised by the charge of planning an assassination brought against them, since they were not interrogated based upon them, in addition, the court refused the request of the lawyers to receive a copy of the case file. Some defendants were not allowed to meet with their lawyers except when they met them for the first time at the third hearing on November 2, 2017 for five minutes.

The National Institute for Human Rights, the Terror Crime Prosecution and the Special Investigation Unit have played clear roles in covering up the serious human rights violations committed against some of the detainees in this trial.

UN human rights experts have called in a statement issued on April 30, 2018 for the retrial of four men sentenced to death by a Bahraini military court in a collective trial that breached fair trial and due process guarantees and confessions obtained under torture.

The experts called on the Bahraini authorities to ensure that the four men are retried in accordance with international law and standards.

"The allegations of enforced disappearance and torture must be promptly, thoroughly and impartially investigated with a view to holding those responsible to account and preventing future similar occurrences," the experts said.

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*Bahrain Forum for Human Rights (BFHR), NGO without consultative status, also shares the views expressed in this statement.

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Please recycle

Bahrain: The Anti-Terrorism Law- A tool for political repression and persecution*

Bahrain issued Law No. 58 of 2006 on The Protection of Society against Terrorist Acts while it was witnessing some political disputes regarding constitutional amendments and some laws issued by the government, which were considered by political and human rights figures restrictive to political action. Despite popular and political parties' disapproval of passing this law, the government took advantage of the opposition's boycott of the 2002 elections, and because of the pro-government majority in the Council, the elected House of Representatives and the appointed Shura Council approved the new bill on July 16 and July 22, 2006, respectively. It was then presented to the King of Bahrain Hamad bin Isa for final ratification.

This came after the government presented the law to the House of Representatives for urgent consideration before other topics listed in the agenda of the House of Representatives. The King of Bahrain met with the Presidents of the House of Representatives and the Shura Council and the heads of blocs and committees in both councils, and the King emphasized in that meeting the importance of issuing that law.

On the other hand, the UN Committee against Torture and the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism expressed concerns that the Bill will jeopardize the peaceful exercise of human rights. In addition, Amnesty International strongly urged the King to launch a comprehensive review of the Bill and amend it so that it becomes in line with the standards of the international human rights law.1

The promulgation of the Law on The Protection of Society against Terrorist Acts, also known as the Terrorism Law in Bahrain, was somehow a revival of the State Security Law, which was used primarily for political purposes and allowed the security services for almost 25 years to detain citizens for years without trial and caused a number of serious violations against citizens. It was repealed in 2001 due to the popular and political demands, in preparation for political reform. Therefore, the adoption of a law such as the Anti-Terrorism Law allowed the same old practices and violations to reoccur, since the security services and the judicial system used the Anti-Terrorism Law to punish many protesters and political activists as well as some media activists. The implementation of this law has caused many violations against those who are detained under this law, especially since 2011, which witnessed widespread protests in Bahrain.

Moreover, the law was amended twice. The first amendment was under Decree Law No. 20 of 2013,as part of the government's policy of targeting the opposition by describing the protests as acts of terrorism. The second amendment was under Decree Law No. 68 of 2014 to tighten the stranglehold on the popular movement and protests and to make penalties and procedures harsher (which will be explained later on). The Terror Crime Prosecution was established due to the crisis witnessed by Bahrain since 2011, and was formed by Royal Decree No. 64 of 2014. The appointments came from one sect only, and members of the Military Prosecution were appointed in the Public Prosecution, which sends a clear political message, making it a non-independent prosecution, completely submissive to the authorities and constrained by government orders.

Since 2011 until the issuance of this report, the Bahraini courts issued several judicial rulings that have political and human rights backgrounds, in trials that lacked the simplest guarantees and standards of fair trials. Many of these were under the Law on The Protection of Society against Terrorist Acts, which is used by the government as a tool of political persecution.

Conclusions and recommendations

Based on the above, the following results can be presented:

1Bahrain: Counter-terrorism bill threatens human rights, statement by Amnesty International 7/27/2006

- The Law on the Protection of Society against Terrorist Acts and its amendments reinstate the era of the State Security Law and decide to re-apply the National Safety Decree, which resulted in serious violations in 2011. In addition, they indicate an undeclared state of emergency in Bahrain whenever it is wanted, under the pretext of maintaining public security. Moreover, the Anti-Terrorism Law does not provide any safeguards against the extensive human rights violations that accompanied that era. In fact, the authorities acknowledge the occurrence of the violations since the king of Bahrain admitted it in the report of the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry (BICI).Not to mention, an official statement had said that the protection of human rights should not preclude the achievement of security, which is considered more important than human rights. This indicates that main training security and stability conflicts with the protection of rights and freedoms, which is contrary to universal concepts, which stipulate that the protection of rights and freedoms is what ensures security and stability.

- Bahrain's security authorities have used the law disproportionately, according to the report of the BICI and the report of Human Rights Watch,"No Justice in Bahrain."The reports concluded that the law is not applied equally ,but selectively, in order to punish and deter the peaceful opposition. The Bahraini authorities have not responded to these conclusions in such reports. Rather, this disproportionate application of the law has continued and escalated with the continued use of the Anti-Terrorism Law and its amendments in order to repress political action and the exercise of public freedoms.

- Concerns are raised by the fact that pre-trial detention is actually a punishment for political dissidents, and the disproportionate application of the law confirms this. While an accused is sent to pre-trial detention solely for a tweet on Twitter, others, who are accused of more serious, obvious and aggravated offenses, are not sent to pre-trial detention. More proof of the above is that the accused is often kept in detention for the maximum period, without realistic justification, and during this period, the public prosecution does not conduct any serious investigations; the accused faces a procedure that is closer to a penalty.

- International and domestic reports, including reports issued by the Bahrain Forum for Human Rights, emphasize the absence of fair trials standards and guarantees, both before and during the trial. These reports have identified clear failures in the realization of many principles, standards and safeguards such as the right of the accused to defend himself, or ensuring the most basic rights of the accused. In addition, all investigations into acts that are adapted as terrorist acts pass through the same stages. First, the accused is isolated from the outside world and subjected to enforced disappearance for a relatively long period. Then, during that period after the accused is arrested, he is allowed a single phone call to tell his family "I'm ok," without being allowed to disclose his place or the charges against him. Finally, the accused is not allowed to hire a lawyer or have access to appropriate legal advice. In many cases, the lawyers are unable to meet with the accused before the first hearing of the trial. This happens particularly because the amendments to the law stipulate that the period of detention may be extended for six months by the order of the Attorney-General or his representative, without resolving the legal argument held before the court that the accused must have a lawyer to defend him from the process of gathering evidence, through the interrogation and finally the trial. Therefore, the practical practice of the law and its amendments permits isolating the accused from the outside world for up to six months, as the lawyers cannot be present during the interrogation process. However, the BICI report states that isolating the accused from the outside world is a form of torture.

- Although the BICI report clearly states in the recommendation in paragraph 1253 that the burden of proving torture should be on the State, the authorities ignore this recommendation. In fact, the practice indicates growing allegations of torture by defendants in cases classified as terrorist. This occurs while there are no effective measures to prevent torture, the policy of impunity continues, and security members who violate human rights are protected.

In light of the above, we recommends the abolition of Law No. 58 of 2006 on the Protection of Society against Terrorist Acts. It also recommends the abolition of judicial verdicts against citizens who have been prosecuted in the light of this law, and emphasizes the need to investigate the allegations of torture and abuses and hold those involved in them accountable.

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*Bahrain Forum for Human Rights (BFHR), NGO without consultative status, also shares the views expressed in this statement.

United Nations A/HRC/38/NGO/39

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Human Rights Council
Thirty-eighth session
18 June-6 July 2018
Agenda item 7
Human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories

Written statement* submitted by the Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights Association, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[24 May 2018]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

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Please recycle

Human rights situation in occupied Arab territories

Report on the human rights situation in the occupied Arab territories "Palestine-Golan- Shebaa Farms"

Submitted to: Human Rights Council, 38th session.
Submitted by: Maat for Peace, development and human rights (in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council).
Date: May 2018
Provided on: Item 7 Human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories.

Preface

Maat for Peace, development and human Rights (Egypt) submits this report to monitor violations, practices and policies of Israel on land of the occupied Arab territories, which grossly contradict international laws without regard to any human rights and paying no attention to being an occupying power burdened with obligations. It is obliged to provide all the needs of the protected population in accordance with the Geneva Conventions, in particular the Fourth Convention on the protection of the rights of civilians.
Since March 2018, Israel has been perpetrating heinous massacres of Palestinian citizens who peacefully demonstrate at the border fence of the Gaza Strip to claim the right of return, and the Israeli forces didn't pay any consideration to children, disabled, women and youth. They targeted the physical extermination using lethal weapons which counts a clear violation to international law.
However, the lack of international accountability of Israeli forces for such violations remains, as for the separation wall created by Israel without concern for the right to self-determination, in addition to strict respect for freedom of opinion and expression where the Knesset proposed "A bill that allows Israeli officials to ask Facebook to censor the content of the Internet, and to arrest children as for the case of "Ahd Al-Tamimi ".

Use of force and fire

What is happening now in the occupied territories from March to May 2018, specifically at the border fence with the Gaza Strip, represents clear violations of human rights and all international laws where it started when the Palestinians launched the "Grand Return March" in protest against the transfer of the American Embassy to the city of Jerusalem and to claim the right to return as well as to commemorate the seventieth anniversary of al-Nakba, where the occupying forces used tear gas, rubber bullets and types of live ammunition that caused many deaths and injuries to life-long disabilities. Until 14 May, nearly 58 Palestinians were killed and wounded about 2,800 others.
The Palestinians faced the most heinous types of human rights violations during these events, where the youngest Palestinian martyr, Leila Algandour, died from eight months old, affected by tear gas, in a scene, that reveals the international community's inaction towards the ongoing events in Palestine, and we find that more martyrs who have lost their lives are aged between 14 and 21, as the world witnessed during these events the fall of a truncated martyr, who remained defending his land until he was martyred, in addition to the scene of the girl who endangered her life amid indiscriminate gunfire from the occupying forces to save 4 young men from tear gas asphyxiation and how these youths made a human wall to protect the girl from random gunfire.
In April, 24 Palestinians were killed and more than 5,500 were injured, of whom 1,739 were wounded by live fire by the Israeli security forces in Gaza. 4 children were shot dead by Israeli forces, 3 were shot to the head and the neck, 233 were wounded with live ammunition and some were permanently disabled. On 20 April, 14-year-old Mohammed Ayoub was killed by a bullet to the head [1]. In November, Israeli security forces killed 62 Palestinians, including 14 children, and injured at least 3,494 Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

1 For more information, see https://goo.gl/eWpYvS

Arbitrary arrests and detention of children

The Israeli authorities have carried out numerous violations, including arbitrary arrests and detention of children, and by monitoring the detention of children, we find that till June 2017, the Israeli authorities detained "315 children" and in October 2017 arrested 453 Palestinians without charge 2 . The 16-year-old girl, "Ahd AL- Tamimi", was arrested as the case started on December 15, 2017, when she protested against the decision of "Trump" to announce Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. In the village of Nabi Saleh in the West Bank, rubber bullets were fired at her 15-year-old cousin by an Israeli soldier attacking her house and was arrested on 19 December 2017.

Economic and social rights

The Gaza Strip suffers an electricity crisis, due to restrictions imposed by Israel on the sector, with electricity outages ranging from 20 to 22 hours at a time, resulting in dilapidated sanitary infrastructure. It also affected hospitals by forcing them to reduce health care, as hospitals relied on emergency fuel supplied by the United Nations for operation of its generator, the damage caused by the power outage disrupted the drainage station as it did not operate without electricity, and because of that it became 3.8% of Groundwater is not safe to drink, and the maintenance of infrastructure in Palestine has become difficult because of the restrictions imposed by Israel on import and export of materials because the plant was badly damaged as a result of the Israeli military operation in 2014 and Israel prevented the importation of spare parts.

Settlement expansion and the separation wall

In a direct assault on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, during the first half of 2017, the Israeli authorities approved the addition of 560 settlement units3 , and the construction of more than 7,000 new units in East Jerusalem, and the occupying forces impose restrictions on the freedom of movement of Palestinians because of their construction Roads are used exclusively by Israelis, which constitutes racial discrimination against Palestinians, as those roads obstruct Palestinians to reach workplaces and schools, beside all this; Israel had set up checkpoints near settlements that further impeded the Palestinians and even resulted in the realization violence. One of the most striking facts is the encroachment on the occupied Palestinian territories leading to the non-applicability of the two-state solution. Israel is exerting pressure on communities in West Bethlehem, where it is able to expand, the Israeli population is now three times the Palestinian population, but restrictions have been imposed in dividing areas that prevent Palestinian villages from expanding and developing.

Residents of East Jerusalem also suffer from the abolition of residency and the introduction of a discriminatory planning and construction system, as demolitions present the perspective that works for Israel all the time to do those practices to alter the geographical balance in East Jerusalem. Information on the new law was that Israel had 13% of the land in East Jerusalem was allocated for Palestinian development and only 7% of the building permits are granted to Palestinians, which means the living space has been limited, and the Palestinians resorted to building houses without a permit and always endangered the possibility of their homes to be demolished. In order to avoid paying the demolition fees imposed by the Israeli authorities, Palestinians urge to undertake the demolish process on their own. 381 houses and other Palestinians' properties in the West Bank (including East Jerusalem) were demolished in 2017 and led to the displacement of 588 people.

In the occupied Golan Heights (23000 thousand Israeli settlers) live in 34 settlements illegally, control 95% of the land and live the Syrian population (25,000 thousand inhabitants) in a limited area of five villages at the extreme of the occupied Golan, according to the report of the Committee on the occupied Palestinian territories, and Syrians living in the Golan also faced difficulty in obtaining building permits4 .

2 Human Rights Watch report-State of Palestine
https://goo.gl/gJVx8p
3 For more information see A/72/539
4 For more information see A/72/539

Recommendations

- Establishment of an independent international commission of inquiry to document continuous Israeli crimes, and in particular crimes committed during the last two months.

- Allow United Nations offices, special rapporteurs and other legal activists to enter the occupied Palestinian Territory to observe the current human rights situation.

- The intervention of the international community, including the Security Council, in order to take the necessary measures to reduce these violations against the Palestinians.

- Halting the construction of settlements, settlement expansion and construction activities of the separation wall, the cessation of forced evictions of Palestinian residents and the cessation of the demolition of their homes.

- Allow Palestinians to obtain permits to build their own homes, planning services and physical organization without discrimination.

- The elimination of restrictions imposed on residency permits in East Jerusalem and granting permits to Palestinians to exit the Gaza Strip and to exercise their rights and live a normal life.

- The elimination of restrictions imposed on the import of spare parts to commence the maintenance operations of factories and drainage stations.

- Israeli authorities must stop the detention and use of force against demonstrators. And shall release the child "Ahd al-Tamimi" and assure the treatment of detainees in accordance with the provisions of international human rights law and international humanitarian law, especially with regard to the detention of children.

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Human Rights Council
Thirty-eighth session
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Agenda item 3
Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

Written statement* submitted by the Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights Association, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[24 May 2018]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

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1809136

Please recycle

The Human rights situation of migrants worldwide-2017/2018

The human rights situation of migrants worldwide during the year 2017/2018

Submitted to: Human Rights Council, 38th session.
Submitted by: Maat for Peace, development and human rights (in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council).
Date: May 2018
Provided on: Item 3: Report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants (Human Rights Council resolution 29/2 and 34/21)

Preface

Maat for Peace, development and human Rights (Egypt) provides this intervention to monitor the situation of the world's migrants, both voluntary migrants and persons travelling for the purpose of searching for all new social and economic opportunities or forced migrants who are moving as a result of armed conflicts or violations to which the person is subjected and to the forcible transfer of such persons.

There are many reasons why migrants are subjected to abuse and gross violations of their rights, as migrants suffer from a lack of legal protection, especially labour rights and, they are also subject to detention or deportation by the employer and cannot lodge a complaint against him, and the cases of foreign workers in a number of Gulf states are a stark example of this kind of human rights violation.

In recent years, the Arab region has witnessed illegal migrations in large numbers from the Syrian Arab Republic, fleeing the war there, where migrants move to Turkey, Europe and some countries in the Arab region, and such migrations have been accompanied by gross violations of human rights.

Immigrants in Qatar

Foreign workers in Qatar face clear problems and violations that do not correspond to the legal frameworks governing them, and they need permission from the employer to leave the country, and the laws in force do not provide adequate guarantees of protection against ill-treatment, and the last year has witnessed, low-paid workers were affected by high food prices and other violations, such as forcing workers to take long, unpaid vacations to. Qatar state did not stop at this extent, but it has been intransigent in renewing the residency period and in particular the Egyptian residency which is one of the obvious ways to force them to leave as a result of the severed relations.

As for the World Cup event in which Qatar made workers do the work during the sunny and deadly daylight hours, which has led to the death of a lot. Qatar has not been affected by deaths but has exploited these workers to end the construction work of the Football World Cup.

Syrian immigrants and refugees in Turkey

Turkey hosts more than 3.5 million refugees, and since 2018 Turkey has objected to many asylum seekers on the border between Turkey and Syria, especially in the Syrian governorate of Idlib, which destroyed by the war, as Turkish border guards fired on asylum-seekers who tried to enter Turkey through smuggling routes. At that time, it found more than "1.3" million Syrians trapped in Idlib in unsafe camps with no food or health care amid Turkish closed border, and there is a "510,448 Syria" migrated through the border gates in 2017 and "91,866 till the 2018".

Local and international organizations have documented 137 incidents, of which 107 occurred between January and March 2018, where some Syrians were intercepted by border guards near the village of the Syrian town of Darkush, detained and then deported to Syria.

Immigrants in Europe

In November 2017, more than 150,000 people reached Europe by sea, less than half of the arrivals in 2016, and there was an increase in the number of boats in the Mediterranean from Morocco to Spain, lots of lives were lost and more than 3,000 people died in November 2017.

All the EU institutions and Member States have succeeded in resettling recognized refugees, and the European Commission has announced the localization of "22,518 " refugees over the past two years and recommended to set a

plan for the resettle of 50,000 refugees in Europe over the next two years, and some countries have implemented this plan. The Commission has initiated legal action against Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic for refusing to comply with the plan, and the EU countries have continued to return asylum seekers Italy and Greece under the "Dublin Regulation ", which places the primary responsibility for asylum seekers on the first country of the European Union.
In March 2017, the European Court of Human Rights ruled that Hungary was violating its human rights obligations by arresting asylum-seekers and returning them to "Serbia". The United Nations Office of High Commissioner for Refugees has suspended the return of Hungary under the " Dublin Regulation 1 ".
Italy made an agreement with Libya in 2017 to develop measures to reduce the travel of immigrants and refugees to Europe, which led to the detention of many of them in Libyan camps, where torture is rampant, and this agreement is called as a suspicious transaction, which has led to the detention of immigrants and torture within the centers ruled by the Libyan government. Italy and the European Union (EU) have offered several exercises to the Libya Coast Guard to patrol the sea to withdrawal of migrants and refugees in 2017, about 20,000 people 2 were intercepted by the Libyan coast Guard, and because of that agreement, Algeria was affected by the huge number of immigrants Coming upon it.

Recommendations

1. Appropriate administrative and legislative mechanisms must be put in place to grant legal status to migrants who are unable to return.
2. Investigation of crimes against Syrian refugees in Turkey and on the Turkish-Syrian border.
3. Release all detainees inside Libyan centers, work transparently and stop torture and violations of migrants.
4. Development of a law for the protection of domestic workers in the Gulf states, in particular Qatar.
5. Provide systematic, safe and affordable mobility solutions for all migrants.
6. Consultations and initiation by the United Nations of the implementation of the proposed Mobility Plan 2035, coinciding with the sustainable development Plan 2030.

1 For more information see Human Rights Watch report 2018. https://goo.gl/xroGnT

2 See report of the International Labour Organization for further information https://goo.gl/No9saa

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Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

Written statement* submitted by the Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights Association, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[24 May 2018]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

GE.18-09137(E)

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Please recycle

Human rights and international solidarity

Human rights and international solidarity

Submitted to: thirty-eighth session of the Human Rights Council.
Submitted by: Maat for Peace, development and human rights (in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council).
Date: May 2018
Provided on: item 3: Report of the independent expert on human rights and international Solidarity (Human Rights Council resolution 32/9 and 35/3)

Preface

Maat for Peace, development and human Rights (Egypt) submits this report on human rights and international solidarity in accordance with the third item; promotion and protection of all human rights and civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development.

International solidarity is a guarantee of the freedoms and entitlements codified in international treaties, as stated in the report of the independent expert on human rights and international solidarity; it is the duty of States to cooperate with each other in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, in order to maintain international peace and security, and states shall cooperate in promoting universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all 1 .

Features of the breach of the principle of international solidarity for the respect of human rights

The principle of international solidarity aims at preventing and eliminating the root causes of inequalities between developed and developing countries and eliminating obstacles leading to poverty throughout the world and the creation of a comprehensive supportive environment for the progressive realization of all human rights, but the major powers had exploited poor countries through their development roles, where they are making use of the poverty of developing countries as a means of pressure, either by interfering in their affairs politically, or by intervening militarily under the guise of fighting terrorism or halting human rights violations.

The recent years have witnessed the United States of America and a number of its European allies making interventions in several regions of the world, above all the Arab region, all of which are negative interventions that violate the principle of international solidarity, as such interventions in Iraq, the Syrian Arab Republic and Afghanistan, for example, have led to a deterioration of the situation to the worst, destroying the foundations of political stability, and transforming societies into rival blocs, ignite, ethnic and sectarian wars, as well as the impoverishment that has been dramatically interfered with, the breakdown of its economic structures and infrastructure.

Economically, the terrible disparity in living conditions between the states of the North and the South represents a stark example of the squandering of the principle of international solidarity, and has proved the economic assistance mechanism has been a serious failure over the past years to make tangible progress in the situation of different countries or to bridge the gap, even if partly among the north and the south.

This is because the aid mechanism in its present form is conditioned by the political agendas of the donor countries, hides military and economic ambitions and often accompanied by a desire to buy the loyalties of the states to which they are assisted, and to promote political and diplomatic positions biased towards the positions and orientations of donor states, many of which are in contradiction with human rights standards.

The issue of terrorism also reveals another, more deplorable aspect of the absence of the principle of international solidarity for the respect of human rights. At the same time, the scourge of terrorism is intertwined and there is irrefutable evidence of the involvement of certain states in supporting terrorist organizations directly and indirectly, particularly in areas of armed conflict Libya, Syria and Yemen. Terrorist states provide safe havens and media platforms to terrorist organizations. However, the international community fails to deter these countries and to stop

1-Report of the independent expert on human rights and international solidarity, seventieth session of the provisional agenda, 12 August 2015, the full report can be found in the following link:
http://cutt.us/rLLf2

them from supporting terrorism, violence, extremism and nurturing hate speech, which clearly shows that international solidarity for human rights is weakest much of the magnitude of the challenges facing the world now.

Recommendations

• Redrafting international laws and emphasizing international accountability mechanisms to ensure that major powers do not interfere in the affairs of minor states or exploiting them.

• Developing an international strategy for assistance from rich countries to poor ones; that ensure they are not subject to specific political agendas and are not associated with the dependence of recipient states on donor countries.

• The need to reflect the concept of international solidarity in all international instruments, ensuring that all reference documents in international law demonstrate the existence of international solidarity in order to be binding, dissuasive and constituting a legal argument.

• To take in consideration; the issue of combating terrorism as a starting point for strengthening international solidarity for human rights and to adopt a binding rights convention that encourages and obliges states to renounce violence and extremism and not to provide safe havens and media outlets for organizations convicted or accused of terrorist acts.

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18 June-6 July 2018
Agenda item 4
Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Written statement* submitted by the Organization for Defending Victims of Violence, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[24 May 2018]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

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1809199

Please recycle

Weapons and the Saudi Arabia

Wars and armed conflicts cause destructive consequences in the lives of ordinary people. Civilians are the first victims of war who suffer displacement, lack of access to basic services, and destruction of urban infrastructures. In these circumstances, children are the defenceless victims of wars, wars that take away their families and violate their right to life and the right to education.

Saudi Arabia and its Arab coalition attacked the most impoverished country of the Middle East, Yemen, to start a huge human, economic and environmental catastrophe in the country.1 The repercussions of this war which is one of the most catastrophic wars in the recent decades, target civilians more than soldiers. According to UN figures, to-date, more than 10,000 civilians in Yemen have been killed by Saudi airstrikes alone. According to UNHCR, up to the end of 2016, more than 2.4 million Yemenis were displaced.2 Famine and hunger have affected millions of children in the country.3 And diseases such as cholera has taken the lives of hundreds of thousands of children.

According to a UNICEF assessment, nearly half a million children have dropped out of school since the 2015, with the escalation of conflict in Yemen, bringing the total number of out-of-school children to 2 million. Meanwhile, almost three quarters of public school teachers have not been paid their salaries for over a year, putting the education of an additional 4.5 million children at grave risk.4

Various international human rights organizations have confirmed Saudi's humanitarian crimes in Yemen. Amnesty International has documented repeated indiscriminate attacks and other serious violations by the Saudi Arabia-led coalition in Yemen that have killed and injured civilians, including children. Still, countries including the United States of America, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and France continue to make lucrative arms deals with the Saudis and other coalition members. 5

According to figures over the last three years the British government has done over 4.6 billion pounds in arms trade with Saudi Arabia.6

In 2014, Saudi Arabia and Canada signed an arms deal valued at $14.8-billion. This contract to provide the Saudis with weaponized armoured vehicles is still going ahead, even though there is ample damning evidence that Saudi Arabia violates the human rights of its own citizens and has committed serious violations of the laws of war in Yemen, which has caused widespread death and displacement7.
Between 2008 and 2015, developing countries were the top arms purchasers globally, with Saudi Arabia and India taking the lead (Theohary 2016, Summary). In 2015, Canada was the second biggest arms exporter to the Middle East, after the United States.8

Data from 2016 arms sales showed 270 armoured combat vehicles were exported from France to Saudi Arabia—more than all other exports of this type combined. Similarly, of 708 guns and rifles exported by the country in 2016, 500 were precision rifles sold to the Saudis.9

1 http://nationalinterest.org/feature/saudi-arabias-war-yemen-has-been-disaster-25064
2 http://www.unhcr.org/en-us-protection/operations/4c907a4a9/yemen-fact-sheet.html
3 https://www.unicef.org/yemen
4 https://www.unicef.org/yemen/
5 https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2018/01/saudi-arabias-biggest-obstacle-to-progress-lies-in-its-systematic-human-rights-violations/
6 https://www.unicef.org/yemen
https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/saudi-war-crimes-yemen-british-weapons-bae-systems-know-agm-values-a8347736.html
7 http://ploughshares.ca/pl_publications/arms-and-forced-displacement-canada-saudi-arabia-arms-deal/
8 http://ploughshares.ca/pl_publications/arms-and-forced-displacement-canada-saudi-arabia-arms-deal/
9 http://www.euronews.com/2017/11/30/which-eu-countries-sell-arms-to-saudi-arabia-

These figures are just a tiny part of the multi-billion dollar arms trade of some countries with Saudi Arabia and its allies. According to the reports of several international organizations, Saudi Arabia has committed war crimes in Yemen, and the world today has completely forgotten this issue.10

In today's interconnected world, the responsibility of international peace and security alongside protection of human rights is the duty of all members of the international community, and this factor clashes with the continuation of the lethal arms trade and military machinery sales to warmongering countries. As a nongovernmental organization and defender of human rights and humanitarian law, we call upon the members of the international community to remain committed to their international commitments towards preservation of peace and defence of human dignity.

Alongside most members of the international community, we believe that the arms trade partners of Saudi Arabia in supplying arms to this country are also responsible in the war crimes committed against the defenceless people of Yemen. Therefore, we invite all countries to stop their arms trade with countries that are waging war against Yemen, to stop their participation in the human catastrophe that is taking place in Yemen, and help to dowse the flames of war and airstrikes against the defenceless people.

10 http://www.amnesty.org/en/news/2015/09/yemen-the-forgotten-war/

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Agenda item 9
Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance, follow-up and implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

Written statement* submitted by the Organization for Defending Victims of Violence, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[24 May 2018]

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Please recycle

Islamophobia in Europe

It seems as if the fear of Muslims, escalated by terrorist attack will never leave the Europe Muslims in peace. For years, there have been reports of attacks and hate speech against Muslims in European countries. The findings of European Islamophobia surveys proves Islamophobia in Europe. A survey findings indicate that the majority of European people are against migration of Muslim people to their countries. The percentage of people who expressed such views amount to about 50 percent in The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (UK), over 60 percent in France1. The findings of another survey shows that 43 percent of European respondents are reported to have an unfavourable view of Muslims. In percentage of such responses amount to 28 in UK, 29 in France and 34 in Netherlands2. The present statement discusses cases of Islamophobia in England, France and the Netherlands.

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (UK)

Reports indicate that in the UK, Islamophobia has been on the rise for the past 20 years3, subjecting Muslims to widespread discrimination and violation of their rights. Anti-Muslim hatred has escalated to a point that survey even reveal non-Muslim men harassment because of looking like Muslims. The participants of the survey who look like Muslims have reported various cases of verbal and physical abuse, intimidation and damages to their properties4. The studies prove that the on-going hate crimes against Muslims make the victims suffer from psychological stress, as well as marginalizing them in the society, limiting their chances of social and political participation.

Also, anti-Muslim racism affects the Muslim employment rate in the UK. The available research findings prove Muslim house-holds to be in poverty in comparison to the overall population. In addition, research reveals under presence of Muslims in managerial, administrative and professional jobs and indicates that the employment rate of Muslims is lower than the whole population in the UK5.

France

In France, the secular principles have a tendency to "isolate and stigmatize" Muslims. The mass media tend to associate Muslims with terrorists, igniting a feeling of hatred toward Muslims, isolating them and pushing them to the margins of society. It seems as if the secular principles tend to discriminate against Muslims, contradicting the values of "equal treatment" of people in modern democracies.

The islamophobic feelings are reflected both in government decisions and the personal biases expressed by individuals. For example, a ban has been announced on Hejaab 6and on Muslim street prayers7 by the country officials. Official figures prove the existence of attacks against Muslims and their religious sites in France, although the cases decreased in 2016 comparing to the year before.

Several French mayors have taken measures to restrict freedom of dress in the coastal regions, and by citing public order and secularism as justifications, have tried to ban full covering beachwear (i.e. bikini etc.) and on several occasions, have harassed women for their attire in these regions.[8] Also they prevent Muslim women from wearing hijab in public schools.[9]

In addition, many owners of halal restaurants and Muslim citizens think that they are searched by the police solely because of their religion.[10] Islamophobia has various forms like profanation of cemeteries and mosques, physical attacks, insults, provocations and burning or profanation of the Koran and Muslims.[11]

1. https://www.chathamhouse.org/expert/comment/what-do-europeans-think-about-muslim-immigration
2. http://www.pewglobal.org/2016/07/11/negative-views-of-minorities-refugees-common-in-eu/
3. https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/11/islamophobia-changed-20-years-171116120107753.html
4. https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/muslim-hate-abuse-racism-uk-verbal-physical-emotional-look-beards-islamophobia-research-a8005156.html
5. https://www.theguardian.com/society/2017/sep/07/islamophobia-holding-back-uk-muslims-in-workplace-study-finds
6. https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/mar/14/headscarves-and-muslim-veil-ban-debate-timeline
7. https://www.thelocal.fr/20171119/france-to-prevent-muslim-street-prayers-in-paris-suburb
8. https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/aug/24/french-police-make-woman-remove-burkini-on-nice-beach
9. https://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/jul/22/frances-headscarf-war-attack-on-freedom
10. https://www.hrw.org/news/2016/02/03/france-abuses-under-state-emergency

Netherlands

Anti-Muslim prejudice in Netherlands is reported to be reflected in acts such as aggression against mosques, discrimination in employment and political participation. Aggression against mosques, which amounted to 46 cases, in 2016, are ranging from arson and graffiti to Depositing pigs' heads and threatening phone calls. 12

In the political sphere, there seems to be determined political will to adopt measures against Muslims' immigration to the country as well as a de'-Islamization attitude which includes decisions reject the temporary residence permits for Muslim asylum seekers, prevent women to wear head scarves, close down the mosques, Islamic schools and centers and prohibit the Quran13. That is, the overall atmosphere in Europe appears to be against Muslims which can be perceived as clear signs of Islamophobia.

Recommendations:

Being seriously concerned about the on-going hatred and discrimination against Muslims, the Organization for Defending Victims of Violence (ODVV), calls on the NGOs in the United Kingdom, France and the Netherlands to study ways of convincing the decision makers to move toward social inclusion of minorities specially Muslims.

ODVV calls on the United Kingdom, France and the Netherlands to review the country s' hate crime laws and strategies to control the rise in the crimes. In addition, the States are recommended to study and address the factors that drive the perpetrators to committing crimes and develop new preventive measures.

ODVV also calls on the United Kingdom, France and the Netherlands to pay due attention to the concerns expressed by human right groups while making amendments to domestic laws.

11. https://www.jacobinmag.com/2016/08/burkini-ban-islamophobia-valls-france-secularism-islam

12. ENES BAYRAKLI • FARID HAFEZ (Eds). (2017). Islamophobia in Europe, 2016

13. previous source

United Nations A/HRC/38/NGO/44

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Thirty-eighth session
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Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Written statement* submitted by Coordination des Associations et des Particuliers pour la Liberté de Conscience, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[24 May 2018]

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1809264

Please recycle

The Russian Federation's religious freedom at the crossroads: barriers for indigenous nomadic shamanism

Dawid Bunikowski, Dr.

(The VERA Centre for Russian and Border Studies Network

at the University of Eastern Finland, Joensuu; and, Ronin Institute, US)

LARSN 2018 annual meeting, Cardiff University

The aim is to deal with so-called sacred sites of indigenous people and their protection in Russian law and how the law operates in practice. The focus is on clashes between religious freedom of indigenous groups respecting sacred sites and shamanism in the Russian North on the one hand and the state, big oil and gas companies and economic interests in Russia on the other hand.

1. Religious freedom in Russia.

1.1. The recognised traditional religions in Russia are Christianity (Russian Orthodoxy, in fact), Judaism, Buddhism and Islam. Other religions have to be registered and act as associations (the 1997 Law on Freedom of Conscience and Religious Associations Act).

1.2. The 1993 Constitution guarantees freedom of religion, including worship in public or private for registered denominations. Russia is a secular state (Articles 28 and 14).

1.3. Is there any serious problem with religious freedom in Russia? Unfortunately, yes. The current atmosphere concerning religious freedom(s) is bad. There have been many restrictions concerning e.g. Protestant churches. However, indigenous religions - that in Western understanding are natural religions like shamanism - have nothing common with this trend and are at the margins of these recent problems of protection of religious freedom, but the trend shows the atmosphere and climate. Here come the other problems to be explained in the paper then.

2. Indigenous peoples in Russia.

2.1. There are 186 ethnic groups in Russia. Russia is a multinational federal state.

2.2. In this number, according to the 2000 governmental register, there are included 46 officially recognised minor indigenous peoples, including 40 indigenous small numbered peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East. Each group has fewer than 50 000 members.

2.3. Thus, in the number of 40, we have, for example, the Sami, the Nenets, the Khanty, etc.

2.4. Many of the distinct cultures are going to die out, but some remain still strong.

3. Sacred sites and indigenous nomadic shamanism in Russia.

3.1. Sacred sites are places or things which are of a great importance and a divine significance for indigenous communities.

3.2. Originally, one of the indigenous peoples of the North, the Sami, recognised all their lands as sacred, having both spiritual and physical entity (*Sapmi*). Some places were special for indigenous peoples though.

3.3. These sacred sites were and are lakes, hills, stones, caves, etc.

3.4. For example, Lake Baikal is sacred to the Buryats. By the way, one of the Buryats said that in the past all lands had been sacred but now this perception disappeared1.

3.5. In indigenous traditions and beliefs, sacred sites are places where there is the so called master of the place (see: shamanism in Tuva). It is a spirit. The spirit can help the man, if the man offers the spirit his worship and provides some gift with his prayer/offering (like antlers).

3.6. In indigenous traditions of the North, like in the Khanty group, shamanism is a way of life. This is not a religion - it is a religion only in a Western sense.

1 See more: https://themoscowtimes.com/articles/russian-shaman-battles-oil-giant-over-sacred-lake-49038 and http://sacredland.org/lake-baikal-russia/ (23.04.2018).

3.7. Many of such groups were or are nomadic, especially those based on reindeer husbandry.
3.8. Shaman plays many important roles: 1) he or she is a spiritual leader of a given community, acting on behalf of the community to protect it and to "maintain the world order among the people" and the individual (Porsanger: 154); thus, he organises e.g. important ceremonies (birth, marriage, burial, getting ridding of evil spirits, offerings for good hunting or fishing etc.), 2) he is a healer, 3) he is a foreteller, 4) he travels between the worlds in ecstatic experiences (trances) with his drum as an important ritual object.
3.9. For example, the Sami cosmology contains ideas about the structure of the universe and the birth of the world (cosmogony), and the end of the world (eschatology).

4. State and economic interests v. indigenous peoples, shamanism and sacred sites.
4.1. Officially, article 69 of the Russian Constitution protects cultures of minor indigenous peoples.
4.2. Also, republics, autonomous regions and oblasts protect indigenous rights and traditional ways of life in their codes and statutes (like the Murmansk Oblast Code, art. 21). In practice, it is often a dead letter.
4.3. In fact, there are many conflicts between economic interests of big energy companies and indigenous peoples' rights in the Russian North. This is widely described by NGOs or international organisations2, or in the literature.
4.4. More importantly from the point of view of the paper topic, companies carrying out natural resources exploitation, oil and gas exploration or mining activities are in conflict with indigenous peoples protecting their sacred sites. And, since 2013 there has not been a duty to make environmental impact assessment or consult local indigenous groups in cases of investments like oil drilling.
4.5. Indigenous sacred sites are badly protected by the written law now, not only so is it in practice of law.
4.6. Indigenous sacred sites were not important at all until 1980s, when some first calls for protection appeared. Also, in the 2000s international networks made reports on documentation of sacred sites in some regions of Russia3.
4.7. Nowadays big oil and gas companies are interested in doing big business and maximizing profits. There are many cases of pollution made by these companies' activities that are described e.g. by anthropologists or ethnographers and environmentalists. Pollution as a result of the companies' activities is often the case in indigenous territories, including their sacred sites. It happens in many different regions with indigenous territories in the Russian North or Siberia.
4.8. The main state interest is to support these economic interests of companies as it is also about the economic interests and growth of Russia.
4.9. Many federal legal rules concerning the status of indigenous peoples passed almost 20 years ago (1999-2000), in favour of these peoples, have often been on the paper for years. Since 2013, that said, the new federal law has clearly supported big companies, not indigenous peoples. It is a clash of ideas and interests.
4.10. The priority for Russia's government is the economic growth and natural resources management, not the indigenous heritage. It is a pragmatic choice made by the government.

5. The case of one Khanty shaman.
5.1. This is **the case of Sergey Kechimov, the shaman and guardian of the Imlor, a lake sacred to the Khanty people4. He was appointed as a guardian by the indigenous community. He was a shaman who protected a sacred site, this is a lake in his village. The criminal case was filed against him in 2015.**
5.2. Few years before filing the case, Surgutneftegaz, a regional oil producer, had legally started to drill near the lake. According to the shaman, they had polluted the lake and depreciated this sacred object. The company had paid off about 10 families to move out the village close to the lake. Only the shaman had been left. Many conflicts between him and workers of the company had happened. To make the case clear, I have to add that the media reported that "The peak of the confrontation came when Kechimov used a rifle to shoot the dog of one of the workers, which he says killed one of his deer". **The police had raided him, intervened and enforced him to sign a document in which he had admitted to be guilty. The problem is the he does not know the Russian language too much.**
5.3. Kechimov was accused under article 119 of the criminal code of the Russian Federation ("Threat on someone's life").

2 See: http://whc.unesco.org/archive/websites/arctic2008/russia.html (23.04.2018).
3 See more: http://sacredland.org/arctic-russia-russia/ (23.04.2018). And, a technical report of 2004: https://oaarchive.arcticcouncil.org/bitstream/handle/11374/179/Conservation_Sacred_Sites_Russia_2004.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y (23.04.2018).
4 See: https://www.iwgia.org/en/russia/2314-russia-case-against-defender-of-sacred-lake-postpo (22.04.2018).

5.4. The shaman faced the danger of two years of imprisonment. Finally, he was found guilty and convicted to corrected labour in 2017. Then he was covered by a nationwide amnesty5.

6. Drawing conclusions: barriers for indigenous shamanism in Russia.

6.1. The main barrier for indigenous shamanism related to sacred sites in Russia is the priority of economic interests of both Russian energy companies and the state.

6.2. Sacred sites protected by indigenous both shamans and groups are not really protected by the state then.

6.3. I guess that indigenous shamanism with sacred sites might be considered as a religion and protected in terms of religious freedom and human rights.

6.4. I think that there is no one right answer here, and as scholars we have to understand the process and both sides. However, it is clear that there is some serious problem in this field from a religious freedom perspective as well. And, law and religion scholars may take care of it.

Some chosen references[6]:

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5 There was even an interesting article about it in Guardian in 2017: https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/mar/17/reindeer-herder-oil-excavators-siberia (23.04.2018).

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Agenda item 3
Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

Written statement* submitted by ANO "Organization" "Vector of Friendship", a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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Please recycle

Social innovations and human rights to development

Honorable members of Secretariat and delegates,

We are grateful for the opportunity to contribute to the 38th session of the Human Rights Council. On behalf of the ECOSOC NGO in special consultative status – ANO «Organization «Vector of Friendship» we would like to express sincerely congratulations to all global community in relation to the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The provisions of Declaration are established in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Since 2012, ANO «Organization «Vector of Friendship» has been organizing and conducting an annual International conferences #INFOCUS dedicated to volunteerism development and social transformation at the United Nations Library at Geneva. More than 850 international participants from 50 countries of the world attended the international event.

The Conference is focused on social and economic development, volunteerism, protection of human rights, building the inclusive society, supporting the children and youth initiatives to transform our planet, contribution of NGOs and private sector into the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals, interaction of NGOs with authorities and international organizations, development of public diplomacy, etc.

Taking into account the relevant topics and experiences of civil society services from different countries, the lack of tools and opportunities for children and youth development was identified in CIS countries and overseas as well as the access to services and resources for them.

In order to empower children and youth, to fulfill their potential and rights to development the International Youth Network of Social Innovators #INFOCUS was launched in 2018.

International Youth Network #INFOCUS is an Internet-based platform which helps children and youth to implement their rights to development. With the projects which transform the local community and achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the participants and the experts of #INFOCUS extend the rights to assess different resources for the inhabitants living in the areas with low accessibility.

Thus, on-line platform provides an opportunity both to fulfill the potential, to launch a start-up, to increase tolerance level and to nurture the generation of cosmopolitans who develop an inclusive society. The Network defines the leaders of local communities from different countries, who represent the interests and needs of their micro environment. The participants are ready to protect the rights of the vulnerable inhabitants by implementing their socially important projects.

Within the International Network the youth teams from different corners of the world interact, share their ideas and practices in volunteerism, in human rights protection in their fight to tackle the problem of climate change and in other areas defined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Internet-platform #INFOCUS is an effective tool to achieve SDGs. This is the tool, which helps children and youth use their rights to development. Here are some projects from the on-line platform #INFOCUS:

1) Team from the Russian Federation, Goal 4.

The team implements a project «We discover the world by playing». The aim of the project is to improve the quality of modern education by introducing a set of practical lessons for the juniors in educational organizations. These lessons develop logical thinking and creativity, train special imagination, social design and modeling in the juniors who apply theory from the general subjects and train practical skills.

2) Team from Lebanon, Goal 14.

The team gives lessons in Water Resources and Water Protection. During the lessons they experiment with water and sugar, the school students draw their own signs and create posters which say about a ban on water pollution to make other people aware of the problem.

3) Team from Russia, Goals 6, 13.

The team reads a lecture called «3R: reduce, reuse, recycle». The team is divided into groups that explore the city to identify the environment concerns. Then they prepare a photo report, compile a list of recommendations to solve these problems. The team gives open lessons devoted to drinking water conservation problem.

4) Team from Greece, Goals 3, 17.

The team has a campaign «Lessons of Kindness» where the participants collect the food and clothes for the needy, they organize the lessons devoted to healthy lifestyle. Press-Conference «17 Sustainable Development Goals» was one of the team's projects.

It is important to note here that the Network includes international experts-tutors: human rights advocates, NGO representatives, social entrepreneurs, informal education leaders, business trainers, public leaders, and others who are ready to consult, to inform, to provide resources, and other support in implementation of the socially important projects.

Young leaders-innovators develop the projects in close collaboration with the experts. The best projects are then presented to the world community in the United Nations at the annual International Conference #INFOCUS.

It is here where the young leaders are given an excellent chance to chat face to face with the experts-practitioners, diplomats, stars, cultural and public international leaders, to establish strong partnership relations for their personal growth and for further implementation of the projects.

In the Network #INFOCUS the gained experience is analyzed, the teams summarize their projects to see the results, they prepare and present their reports. The experts-tutors rate the projects in terms of their implementation, team activities.

The projects done by the team-winners are recommended to be translated in different parts of the world. Introduction of the teams from different countries into the platform extends the possibilities to translate the technologies and projects in a social area.

Today 26 countries, including the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Russia, Czech Republic, Qatar, Mauritius, Sri-Lanka, Bulgaria, Montenegro, Greece, etc. have applied for the project.

In the Network #INFOCUS young innovators are given the right to speak about themselves and to show how their team impacts global challenges, how they transform the society for the sake of sustainable development and providing the rights to everyone on this Planet.

The project contributes into stronger integration of children and youth into local communities, provides the possibilities for decision making which changes the world, solves public problems. The Network #INFOCUS also develops the collaboration between the human rights advocates and volunteering organizations from different countries, enhances the cooperation within the expert community in implementing the socially significant initiatives, extends the possibilities for children and youth to be involved into the UN Agenda.

The International Network of Social Innovators #INFOCUS reduces inequality in all its manifestations by providing the rights to development to every member. The system develops reliable partnership relations between the teams, as well as gives the chance to present relevant projects on the international sites, to promote the interests of the vulnerable inhabitants.

We strongly believe that to develop this Network and to involve as many participant and experts from different countries as possible means to contribute into the sustainable development of the world and to achieve SDGs by increasing awareness among population and by particular actions. This is a successful step towards human rights extension in social, economic and cultural areas. Together with the community development and transformation we can build an inclusive society to leave no one behind, to nurture responsible global citizens who can set an example to inspire others and make a difference. Only together, we will let the world hear the voices of millions.

Join the global project to achieve Global Goals and make the world a better place right now: www.infocusglobalgoals.net

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Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General

Written statement* submitted by Organisation internationale pour les pays les moins avancés (OIPMA), a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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Please recycle

The United Nation's Counter-Terrorism Strategy, Challenges and the Perspective, and the Role of Member States

The last review of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy affirms among other issues two main responsibilities for the implementation of the Strategy on national, regional and international levels.

First responsibility, to combat violent extremism and radicalization that Lead to Terrorism including, facilitating, financing and tolerating terrorist activities, and the need to extradite any person who supports, facilitates, participates or attempts to participate in financing, planning, perpetration of terrorist acts or provides safe havens to identify who is behind the constraints and the obstacles against the implementation of the UN strategy in case of Yemen.

The International Organisation for LDCs – "Organisation internationale pour les pays les moins avancés" (OIPMA), observed that, the terrorist activities still going in the country due to the tolerance with Yemen's Islah Party "Yemen's Muslim Brotherhood" who was involved of a relationship with extremist and terrorist groups, particularly al-Qaeda and ISIS according to the following facts:

It has become evident that the leaders of Yemen's Islah Party provide, financially and intellectually, support and funding for the terrorist groups. Many of the Party's leaders, notably Sheikh Abdul Majeed Al-Zindani, Ali Hassan Abker, Abdullah Faisal Al-Ahdal, Hashim Mohsen Aidroos Al-Hamed, Khalid Ali Mabkhout Al-Arada and Salah Batais, have been enrolled in the list of terrorist figures, after their involvement in and contribution to many terrorist acts.

In December 2016, the United States of America Department of the Treasury decided to add Islah Party's leaders, Sheikh Hassan Ali Abaker, Abdullah Faisal Al-Ahdal and the Rahmah Charitable Organization to the US Sanctions List, for their links to AQAP, and in May 2017, the US Department of the Treasury decided to add the leaders of Yemen's Islah Party, Hashim Mohsen Aidrees, and Khaled Ali Mabkhout al-Arada, to the US Sanctions List, for their involvement in supporting and providing funds for AQAP.

According to our local representative, in March 2013, about QR 4 million was transferred from Doha to Hadramout, via Al-Amqi Money Exchange (classified by the DT as a supporter of terrorism), received by the leader of the Islah Party – Hadramout Branch, "Salah bin Musallm Batais", also a member of the Yemeni Shura Council and the Head of al-Badiah Charity Association.

The US is investigating the fate of the Qatari amount, after receiving information that a leader in al-Qaeda, called Mounir, has received a part of such amount through "al-Badiah" Charity Association, which was used by the organization in financing terrorist activities, including the purchase of weapons and vehicles.

The brother of Batais, "Khalid Batais ", who was a leader of AQAP, was killed in an air raid allegedly launched by the US on June 15, 2016 in Shabwa. At that time, Yemeni media leaders sought to hide the news of the death of "Khaled Batais" in al-Qaeda cell, in Haban, due to the critical situation of his brother "Salah Batais", the member of the Yemeni Shura Council and the prominent leader of Yemeni's Islah Party, the Muslim Brotherhood's branch in Yemen.

It is indicated that his son, "Musallm Salah Batais " was killed recently in the clashes that erupted between Hadrami Elite Forces and al-Qaeda militants, during Al-Faisal Operation launched by the United Arab Emirates armed forces. Today, Salah Batais, leader of Yemeni's Islah Party, lives in Turkey and receives all his financial dues from Qatar, and some other leaders of the Yemeni Islah Party are living in Turkey, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia. Moreover, the leaders of this party have their influence on decision making of the Yemeni government based in Riyadh.

In 2012, the Yemeni authorities arrested the leader of ISIS, Salah Bajbaa "Abu Safiya" in Aden; then he appeared, 6 months later, in Iraq, in a video announcing his allegiance to "Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi", he participated in the sit-ins

organized by the Islah Party in Aden early February 2011, and supported a number of youth in the camp, before the activists of the southern movement managed to take control of the square of Al-Mualla District during clashes with elements from the Yemeni's Islah Party, that left dead and injured behind.

In 2013, ISIS announced the death of 8 young men from Aden and published pictures of some of them. They were killed in Iraq and Syria, it seems that Abu Safiya was involved in sending these men to Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic; among about 300 jihadists who were transported through Aden Airport to Turkey on almost daily flights provided by Turkish Airlines at very reduced fees, not exceeding $ 100 per person, coordination was provided by party and military leadership linked to the Islah Party.

OIPMA was informed that the investigations of a number of terrorists and around the terrorist operations in the city of Aden and other cities, revealed that many of the terrorists who carried out suicide attacks that killed hundreds of soldiers and civilians, were mostly members of the Islah Party or graduates from "al-Hikma, al-Ihsan al-Islah associations", which are the largest associations of the Islah Party (Yemen's Muslim Brotherhood).

Second responsibility: The role of member states to eliminate terrorism and preventing terrorist installations or training camps, including the preparation or organization of terrorist acts can be witnessed in the progress made by the United Arab Emirates in its implementation of the UN Counter-Terrorism Strategy in case of Yemen as where we can see the key progress as follows:

The UAE's support, rehabilitation of the security services, formation of the anti-terrorism forces and military, air and intelligence support have had a great impact on achieving security, stability and victories by the Security Belt Forces against the terrorist groups in Aden, Lahj, Abyan, Shabwa and Hadramout, and continuing to pursue the terrorist hotbeds,here the most recent result of these victories was the killing of Saleh Nasser al-Bakhshi "emir" of the terrorist group's branch in Aden and Abyan,, and a number of his companions by the security forces of Aden, on April 26, 2018, during their attempt to resist the security forces while being arrested.

After the liberation of Aden from the grip of the Houthis on 6 October 2015, Al-Qaeda and ISIS took advantage of the post-war situations to acquire weapons and attract young people. They used to carry out terrorist acts on a daily basis, targeting the unarmed citizens in the liberated governorates, particularly Aden, and even went so far as to roam the streets of the cities with military uniforms and weapons, raising the slogan of al-Qaeda and ISIS, and calling for the division of the cities into Islamic states led by al-Qaeda and ISIS who claimed responsibility for attacks in Yemen that targeted the temporary Yemeni government headquarters in Aden, and other headquarters of the Allied Coalition Forces, in Aden, followed by the assassination of the governor of Aden by ISIS car bomb in Aden.

In mid-August 2017, the UAE Armed Forces launched a large-scale ground military campaign by the UAE Air Force to cleanse the southern governorates of Abyan and Shabwa of al-Qaeda and ISIS elements, with the participation of the "Shabwani Elite" Forces and "Security Belt" Forces battalions.

The UAE Armed Forces-backed Shabwa Elite Forces were able to take control over the villages and districts of Shabwa oil province, 270 km north-east of Aden, amid resistance from al-Qaeda elements. The UN Panel of Experts report on Yemen dated 26 January 2018, addressed to the President of the Security Council, which stated that the Security Belt Forces and the Hadrami and the Shabwani Elite Forces are among the most active forces in the fight against terrorism.

At the same time, the UAE-backed Security Belt Forces managed to cleanse most of the villages and districts in Abyan governorate. The UAE war against al-Qaeda and ISIS resulted in a clear contraction in their military and organizational capabilities.

On August 11, 2017, the UAE announced the martyrdom of four of its soldiers, Captain Ahmad Khalifa Al Balushi, 1st Lieutenant Pilot Jassem Saleh Al Zaabi, Warrant Officer Muhammad Sa'id al-Hassani and Warrant Officer Samir Muhammad Murad Abu Bakr, who were killed while carrying out clean-up operations after al-Qaeda and ISIS, in Shabwa governorate, in Yemen.

On April 24, 2016, Mukalla city, the Hadramout coast was liberated from al-Qaeda, through the planning and support of the UAE Armed Forces of 2,000 Yemeni soldiers. The liberation of Hadramout coastal areas has had a positive impact on the Regional and international security, which was the starting point for a number of its most violent terrorist operations outside Yemen.

As a result, OIPMA, recommends the Council to call upon the states to refrain providing safe havens and to refrain from hosting and extradite any person who supports, facilitates, participates or attempts to participate in financing, planning, perpetration of terrorist acts, and to encourage the UN concerned bodies to cooperate with states who has taken counter-terrorism practical measures such as the UAE in the case of Yemen in order to ensure full implementation the 4 pillars of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in line with GA resolution and Plan of Action (A/RES/60/288).

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Bahrain: Military Trial against Civilians

Introduction

It is well known and recognized that military courts are those which handle offences committed by military personnel and associated with their military functions, and this is how the military court was describe in the 2002 Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain, and particularly in section b of Article 105 thereof, which stipulates that,

"The jurisdiction of military courts shall be confined to military offences committed by members of the Defense Force, the National Guard, and the Security Forces. It does not extend to other persons except when martial law is declared and within the bounds prescribed by law."

However, the martial law declared on March 15, 2011 enabled the military court to try civilians over political cases and conducted the collective punishment against the opposition movement. The Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry (BICI) nullified legal effects of the sentences made by military courts under the martial law. The government of Bahrain reacted with an amendment of Article 105 of the Constitution on March 30 2017, lifting the constitutional impediment of trying civilians in military courts. This constitutional amendment resulted in an amendment to the Military Judiciary Law on April 18, 2017, which allows the military court to try civilians.

The Amendment of Constitution and Judiciary Law

The 2002 Constitution of Bahrain used to stipulate in its Article 105 that "the Jurisdiction of military courts shall be confined to military offences committed by members of the Defence Force, the National Guard, and the Security Forces. It does not extend to other persons except when martial law is declared and within the bounds prescribed by law." This article was, however, replaced on March 30 2017, and the text that prevents the trial of civilians by military courts was removed.

After 20 days, the Military Judiciary Law was also amended, and Law No. 12 of 2017 allows military courts have the jurisdiction to try civilians permanently, and all criminal lawsuits (which are based on political cases) that have not been referred to civil criminal courts are referred to military courts.

It is clear that the judicial procedures in the Bahraini military courts are not inconformity with this article, by which Bahrain is bound since it is a state party to this Covenant, especially with regard to the period of remand detention, which is not regulated by the Military Judiciary Law, and the access to a lawyer or communication with the outside world, whether with the family or the lawyer.

Morzover, Bahrain's judicial authority did not follow the Basic Principles relating to the Independence of the Judiciary adopted by the United Nations in 1985, neither in the appointment of judges nor in court proceedings.

The Military Trial of Civilians

Based on the amendment, the first military lawsuit resulted in charges of a number of victims, accused of establishing a terrorist cell, aimed at committing terrorist crimes against the Bahrain Defense Force. The first group of defendants whose cases were reviewed in the military court includes Sayed Alawi Hussein Alwi, Sayed Fadhel Sayed Abbas, Muhaoomad Abdul Hussein Salah Al Shehabi, and Muhammad Abdul Hassan Ahmad Kadhem al-Mutagawi, on 24 October 2017. Sayed Alawi Hussein Radhi, who is an engineer, was abducted by armed men and forcibly disappeared. During the detention period, he was not allowed to call his family for more than a month. Sayed Fadhel Sayed Abbas was detained by security forces since 28 September 2016, and was also forcibly disappeared.

It is no doubt that the constitutional amendment on the powers of the military judiciary approved by the King will lead to unrestrained issuing of arbitrary sentences by the military institution against prisoners of conscience. Military judiciary Law allows issuing the death penalty in thirty-three cases of crimes, whatever the crimes were intentional or unintentional.

On 25 December 2017, the Supreme Military Court issued a death sentence to 6 civilians, charging them for forming a terrorist cell. The victims, Mubarak Adel Mubarak Mahanna, Sayed Fadhel Abbas Hassan Radhi, Sayed Alawi Sayed Husain Alawi, Muhammad Abdulhassan Al Mutaghwi, Murtada Majeed Ramadan Alawi, and Habeeb Abdullah Hassan Ali, were given the verdicts after a mass unfair trial. Murtada Majeed and Habeeb Abdullah were tried in absentia.

Recommendations

To the government of Bahrain:

- Repeal the constitutional amendment and restore Article 105 of the Constitution to its previous state to ensure that civilians are not tried in military courts.
- Repeal Law No. 12 of 2017 amending the Military Judiciary Law, which allowed for the prosecution of civilians in military courts.
- Adopt the Basic Principles on the Independence of the Judiciary adopted by the United Nations in 1985.
- Open an independent investigation into all complaints of violations in this and other cases, particularly concerning complaints of torture and ill-treatment.

To the international community:

- The United Nation Secretary-General, the High Commissioner and Member States of the Human Rights Council urge the Government of Bahrain to adopt and implement the basic principles on the independence of the judges, to ensure that the Government of Bahrain refrains from trying civilians is military courts and amendments the law.
- The Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers submits a request to visit Bahrain and the Bahraini authorities are preserved to accept the request for a visit.
- The mechanisms for the appointment of the Supreme Judicial Council are amended in order to allow the public to exercise its authority to supervise the work of the judiciary.
- Legislative guarantees are put in place so that none of the other authorities interfere in the work of the judiciary.

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Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

Written statement* submitted by Conseil International pour le soutien à des procès équitables et aux Droits de l'Homme, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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Torture in Bahrain: A State Behaviour and A Systematic Policy

Introduction

On January 5 of 2017, the King of Bahrain issued Decree No. 1 startled civil society, as it granted officer and members of the National Security Agency (NSA) the status of judicial control officers by giving them power to arrest and investigate. The NSA has involved in extrajudicial killings and torture in its prisons at the Ministry of the Interior known as "Al Qaala", and the cases of human rights abuses conducted by the NSA has been documented in the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry BICI report in 2011.

A detainee died in prison after being allegedly tortured

On July 31, 2016, Al Hoora Police Station reported the death of Hasan Jasim Hasan Al Haiki at the Salmaniya Medical Compex to his family in a phone call. No specific causes of death were documented, but an article published on the Ministry of Interior website alleged that he had "a health problem" whereas his family confirmed that Al Haiki had no health problems prior to his arrest and claimed that he died of injuries sustained during torture in the Criminal Investigation Directorate CID.

On 22 July 2016, Al Haiki was taken to the Public Prosecution for the second time, and testified that officials subjected him to sexual assault and forced him into signing on false confessions. His family stated that, despite his repeated requests to the Public Prosecutor's Office for a lawyer, the authorities continued to interrogate Al Haiki without any legal advisor. When his personal lawyer went to the Public Prosecutor's Office, officials told him that Al Haiki had not yet been brought.

Death sentences against torture victims

On June 8 2017, the Supreme Criminal Court, headed by Judge Ali al-Dhahrani, issued two death sentences against victims of torture, Sayed Ahmed al-Abbar and Hussein Ali Muhammad. Both detainees reported to their families that they had been tortured and forced to sign confessions extracted under torture in solitary confinements at the Criminal Investigation Directorate (CID), where they were subjected to kicking, beatings on the head and to sexual harassment for nearly two weeks.

Meanwhile, on January 15, Bahraini authorities executed three victims of torture, Sami Mushaima, Ali al-Singace and Abbas al-Sameea. Local and international organizations have called on the Bahraini authorities to investigate the allegations of torture, as they testified they were tortured, electrically shocked, stripped naked and severely beaten. Despite evidence that shows Abbas al-Sameea was innocent of the crime, the judiciary refused to take it into consideration. The organizations considered that an accomplice to the judiciary in covering up the crime of torture committed against these detainees.

Enforced disappearances

Two detainees, Sayed Alawi Sayed Hussein and Sayed Fadel Abbas Radhi, have been held incommunicado and not been allowed to meet a lawyer nor their families for nine months. No formal charges are yet brought against them with no trial, and their place of detention remains so far unknown. During the detention period, losing their contact with the outside world, detainees are subjected to torture in order to extract false confessions at the notorious Criminal Investigation Directorate (CID).

In accordance with article 9 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Bahrain acceded in 2006, "a person who is arrested or detained on a criminal charge shall be promptly brought before a judge or an officer legally authorized to exercise judicial functions and shall be entitled to trial within a reasonable time or to be release", when the UN Special Rapporteurs also consider that enforced disappearance is a crime against humanity.

Torture in detention centers: "the Criminal Investigation Directorate CID"

On May 5, 2017 Al Wefaq Shura Council member Nizar Al Qari was arrested for exercising his rights to freedom of opinion and expression and was held in the Criminal Investigations Directorate and later transferred to a temporary detention center, Dry Dock prison. Al Qari was beaten and forced to stand for long hours and was assaulted for several

days where the investigation was based on his activities in the opposition party Al Wefaq, in which he was a member until the Bahraini authorities dissolved it by court order and stopped all its activities.
On December 13, Komail Ahmed Hamideh Komail was arbitrarily arrested and subject to torture and ill-treatment in the Criminal Investigations Directorate CID. On December 21, 2016, his family managed to visit him for the first time. The family members testified to the BCHR that there were signs of torture on his lower lip to his chin. He told his family that the beating was concentrated on his ears, which caused difficulties in hearing. He was also electrocuted in his feet, and hot water was poured on his body to force him to confess on false charges of illegal gathering and photography of protests. Komail also added that upon his arrival to the Dry Dock Detention Center he was beaten by policemen and guards.

Torture victims are prohibited from treatment

Human rights organizations continue to receive many reports and testimonies about prohibiting torture victims from medical treatment, instead of providing them with medical care and psychological rehabilitation. For example, the victim of torture, Akbar Ali, who was recently released, was prevented from his right to treatment by the administration of Jau Central Prison, despite his deteriorating psychological condition that resulted from torture, which caused several attempts to commit suicide.
Mohammed Faraj is sentenced to seven years in prison. He suffers from MS and needs periodic and regular treatment as a result of the chronic disease. The Jaw prison administration refuses to offer him a medical treatment, which has led to multiple health complications.
Elyas Faisal Al Mulla is a victim of torture and sentenced to 15 years in prison. He is suffering from cancer. He has been prevented from treatment for many periods that caused health complications. The prison administration continues to delay his treatment, ignoring the fact that the proper medical treatment is guaranteed by both local and international laws, as it is stipulated in the Constitution of Bahrain.
Jaafer Oun was tortured in the head area, which caused complications, the most recent of which was a swelling of the head. He asked for treatment and to be diagnosed by a specialist doctor, but the prison administration of Jau has procrastinated his transfer to a specialized hospital outside the prison clinic. This may cause serious health complications.

Torture of women

Amnesty International said that on May 25 2017 that human rights defender Ebtisam al-Saegh received a call from the security compound in Muharraq, which belongs to the NSA. She was interrogated for more than seven hours about her human rights activities in Bahrain as well as her work and delivered oral interventions at the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva. Al-Sayegh reported that she was subjected to torture, slapping, verbal and sexual harassment, and continuous beatings on the head. She was threatened to stop and suspend her activities.
At the Isa Town Prison for women, 12 Bahrainis are currently in detention on political grounds, many of whom have been subjected to abuse and inhuman treatment and ill-treatment.

Torture is outrageous and deprives the human dignity and humiliates oneself and makes him/her a victim and a plaything in the hand of the torturer. It creates negative feelings in the heart of that person and forces him to confess on things that are fraught and void and that are not related to reality, which is humanly and legally unacceptable. This practice must end in all its forms, so that the country can enjoy security and peace.

Recommendations

To the Bahraini authorities:

- Immediately stop the use of torture as a policy to extract confessions and to spread fear and intimidation among people;
- Immediately, impartially and transparently investigate the allegations of torture against dozens of officers in the National Security Agency NSA who are involved in torture and other human rights violations;

- Hold accountable any person found guilty of committing, or supervising the crimes of torture in a fair trial in accordance with international standards;
- Compensation and reparation for victims of torture and the establishment of a rehabilitation center for victims of torture;
- End the culture of impunity governing the police forces and carry out comprehensive reforms to ensure transparency and legal accountability;
- Signing and ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture in order to enhance the legal accountability of perpetrators of torture offenses;
- Respect for article 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and article 7 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which stipulate that no one shall be subjected to torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;
- End the practice of enforced disappearance, incommunicado detention and arbitrary detention;
- Allow the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture to visit Bahrain urgently and allow him to work freely and meet the victims unconditionally.

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Written statement* submitted by Organisation Internationale pour les pays les moins avancés (OIPMA), a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

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Deteriorating Prison Conditions in Bahrain

Introduction

Bahrain is witnessing a serious deterioration of the human rights situation, especially after the closure of the democratic space and the failure of the security grip to deal with the movement of peaceful protests. The Bahraini authorities thus paved the way for a series of local legislations that have been introduced or developed, such as: Terrorism Law, the Military Justice Ordinance, which authorize death penalty in more than 60 articles and articles.

According to documented statistics, more than 12,000 Bahraini citizens have been subjected to arbitrary detention since 2011, including more than 4,000 victims of torture and ill-treatment, 968 arbitrarily detained children, 330 women.

The deterioration of prison conditions in Bahrain is the other face of arbitrary detention, where conditions of prisoners in rehabilitation centers do not meet with Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners and is providing a fertile environment for torture and ill-treatment to extract confessions on one hand; and on the other hand to revenge from opposition crowds. 21 methods of torture and ill-treatment are used on 4,000 political prisoners.

The deterioration of prison conditions

- **Torture and ill-treatment of detainees:** Most of detainees, including Nizar AlQari, Adel Am Marzooq, Abduljilil Yousif, and Muhammad Khalil Al Shakhoori, claimed to be subject to intimidation, reprisals, torture and other ill-treatment. For instance, Human rights defender Ebtisam Al Saegh spoke to Amnesty International about the torture she had to endure for seven hours on the 26 May 2017 in the building of the National Security Service in Muharraq. AlSaegh confirmed that officials of the National Security Service subjected her to severe psychological and physical torture, including sexual assault, in retaliation for her work.
- **Neglect of hygiene and maintenance of facilities**: Many prisoners complain of the spread of insect and mosquitoes inside prison corridors and rooms. The political activist AlHalwachi confirmed that detainees are sleeping with insects, especially cockroaches and at meal times they are surprised by the abundance of insects that are there. It should be noted that the annual report of the Bahrain Prison Commission for the year 2014 pointed to the absence of specific procedures for changing mattresses and pillows, that there is difficulty in handing over clothes from the families, and that there is no wardrobe for each detainee to keep his personal belongings A 2013 Annual Report of the Ombudsman also noted that there was a clear lack of maintenance, poor hygiene, as evidenced by a video broadcast by activists on the media reflecting poor hygiene.
- **Overcrowding**: According to the Ombudsman report after visiting the central prison of Jau in September 2013, the capacity of the prison is 1,200, while the number of prisoners during the visit was 1,600. It should be noted that activists on social networking sites have posted a leaked video clip showing prisoners in protest against overcrowding, which they are suffering from.
- **Poor health care:** Despite the high number of detainees, particularly in Jau central prison and Dry Dock prison, only one doctor is available for one seizure per prison; and sometimes there are no doctor at all. The authorities delay or prevent the transfer of detainees to hospitals and external clinics. Where prisoners who wish to receive treatment at a private health center – at their expense – are not enabled to do so. Despite the powers of the prison administration to release prisoners whose presence in prison is a threat to their lives, it often does not work with these powers.
- **Violation of privacy:** Although there are rooms reserved for lawyers to meet their clients, but the presence of a security man with them makes this meeting loses its privacy. The defendants also suffer from a violation of their privacy during the visit of their relatives to them, often accompanied by a security man.
- **Absence of prisoners' access to education:** Although prison authorities have allowed detainees in some cases to continue their studies, they have not established any policies or procedures in order to provide them with opportunities to continue their education. Many prisoners complain of procrastination by the prison administration and lack of education for all prisoners, where procedures also may take a long time.

Dry Dock Prison Unrest

In August 2013, police officers beat a group of defendants who expressed their resentment at the ill-treatment. The defendants refused to go for visits, demanding improvements in the detention center. Other groups accepted to go to the visits, showing bruises on their faces.
While human rights activists assert that the police used tear gas, stun grenades and batons to punish the defendants, resulting in 40 injuries.

In February 2016, the prisoners began another hunger strike, renewing the same demands that they had previously made. Prisoners said they were beaten, put in solitary confinement and forced to mimic the sounds of animals. Prisoners also complained about the presence of the glass barrier during visits.

Jau Central Prison Unrest
The prison has witnessed many disturbances since the popular protests began on February 14, 2011, most notably the so-called "March 10 events" in which more than 1,100 prisoners were subjected to torture and ill-treatment. Unrest was faced by using teargas, stun grenades and shotguns, which led to the injury of dozens. Security forces entered the prison and beat all inmates, and took them out in the open, before being placed in tents. They were also deprived of their prayers and toilets, and were humiliated by forcing them to imitate the sounds of animals, and were cursed, their families and symbols of their country and religion.

According to information and testimonies available, the cause of the unrest is the harassment and ill-treatment prisoners are subjected to, the denial of medical treatment, the harassment during family visits, and the overcrowding of the cells.

Recommendations
1. We appeal for the urgent visit of the International Committee of the Red Cross to inspect the conditions of prisons and detainees
2. Allow special rapporteurs of the United Nations to visit Bahrain immediately, foremost among them the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture
3. Responding to the demands of political prisoners to receive their rights under the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners: the right to adequate health treatment, the right to adequate food, the right to education, the right to practice religious rites and other demands.
4. The Bahraini authorities must recognize the existence of prisoners who have been convicted solely for exercising their freedom of expression or peaceful assembly and work for their immediate release.
5. The Bahraini authorities must respond to the request of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention and adopt its views issued since 2012 on the release or compensation of a number of victims.
6. The Bahraini authorities must repeal the articles of the Penal Code and the Law on Gatherings that criminalize freedom of expression and restrict the right to peaceful assembly, or modify them to imply with international law
7. The Bahraini authorities shall repeal or amend the articles contained in the Terrorism Act and the Nationality Law that is employed to punish dissidents.
8. Training all prison guards and security forces on proper ways to deal with detainees and protests inside the prison.
9. Accountability of officials, security personnel and any security forces for the torture and ill-treatment of prisoners, especially in events that have witnessed severe disturbances.
10. Prepare clean and new buildings to ensure the safety and wellbeing of detainees, and launch a contract with a cleaning and maintenance company to do what is necessary.
11. Enabling prisoners to meet their relatives or lawyers in a confidential and private manner.
12. Establish a clear mechanism to ensure that education at all levels – including higher education – is provided to all prisoners and work on facilitating this.
13. And to improve the clinics of the prisons so as to ensure that the detainee is properly treated and allow detainees to be treated at external medical centers if appropriate treatment is not available at the clinic or the governmental public hospitals in Bahrain.